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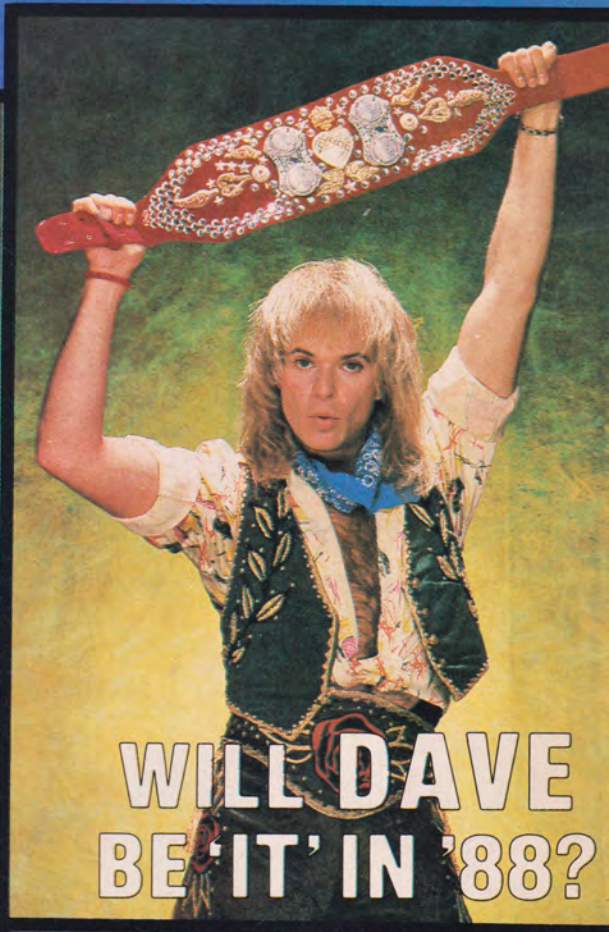
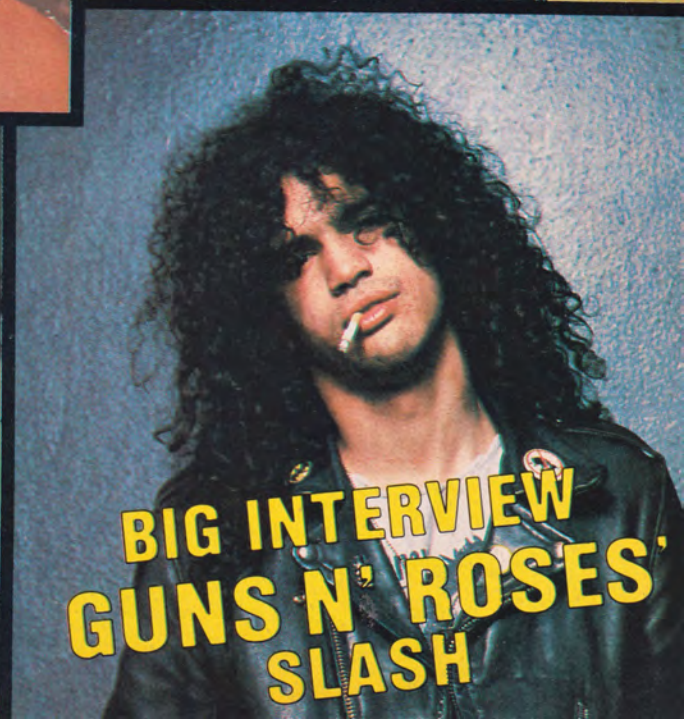


WILL DAVE BE 'IT' IN '88?

WIN!!! A CALL FROM BRET



BIG INTERVIEW GUNS N' ROSES' SLASH

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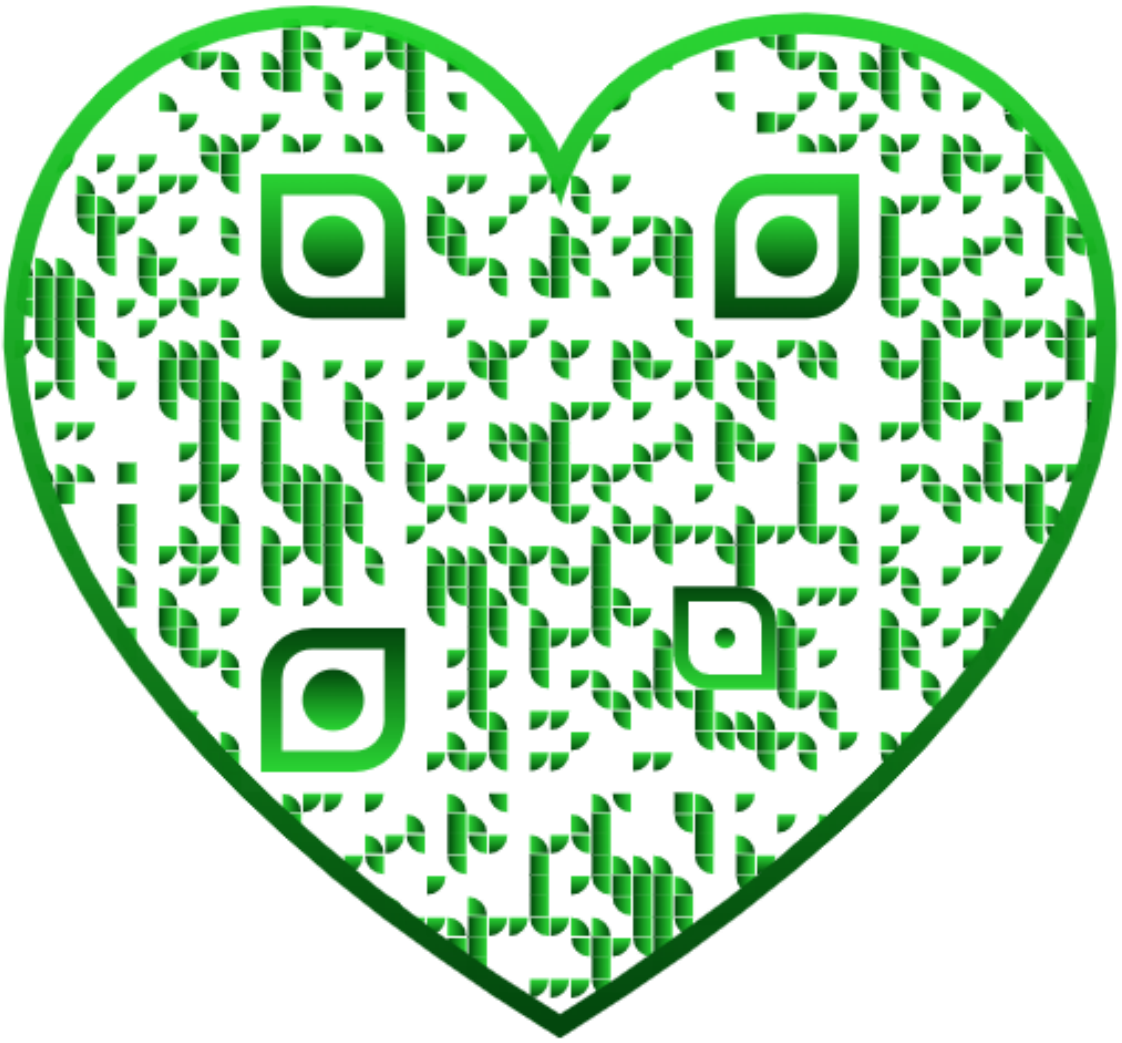


JUST THE FACTS

GREAT WHITE: Trouble is surely close behind.

photo by Neil Zlozower

JAKE E. LEE has his new band rolling, and the lineup looks like this: ex-**SABBATH** member **RAY GILLEN** on vocals, **ERIC SINGER** on drums and **GREG CHASEN** on bass. Jake is negotiating a contractual agreement with Polygram Records.

Congratulations to **RATT** guitarist **WARREN DeMARTINI** who married his longtime girlfriend Kathy Naples in Los Angeles on February 27, 1988.

How's this for a tune? **GUNNERS' W. AXL ROSE** singing a duet with **ALICE COOPER**? Axl and Alice rerecorded Alice's old hit, "Under My Wheels," while **SLASH** and **IZZY** laid down some spicy guitar riffs to re-buff the tune. The track will be on the soundtrack for the movie *The Decline of The Western Civilization*.

Congratulations to **GUNS N' ROSES**, whose album, *Appetite*

METALLICA: Living in L.A. and using an outside producer for their new LP.

At a recent Enigma Records bash, LIZZY BORDEN teamed up with WAF from rap/metal band METAL MC to trade tips on trashing hotel rooms. Perhaps the two were planning to join forces for an Aerosmith/Run-DMC style duet.

For Destruction, just went gold in America, signifying over 500,000 copies sold!

METALLICA is residing in Los Angeles for the time being. For the first time, they hired a producer to handle the helm for their upcoming album, and their choice was Mike Clink, who just scored highly as **GUNS N' ROSES'** producer. Since both Metallica and Guns are very close friends, it seems they've included MIke in their mutual admiration society!

Speaking of friends, the so-called feud between **POISON** and **GUNS N' ROSES** is over. **SLASH, IZZY** and **BRET MICHAELS** settled their differences when they ran into each other at the Rainbow nightclub in L.A. Later on, **BOBBY DALL** joined Slash and **STEVE ADLER** at their hotel room.

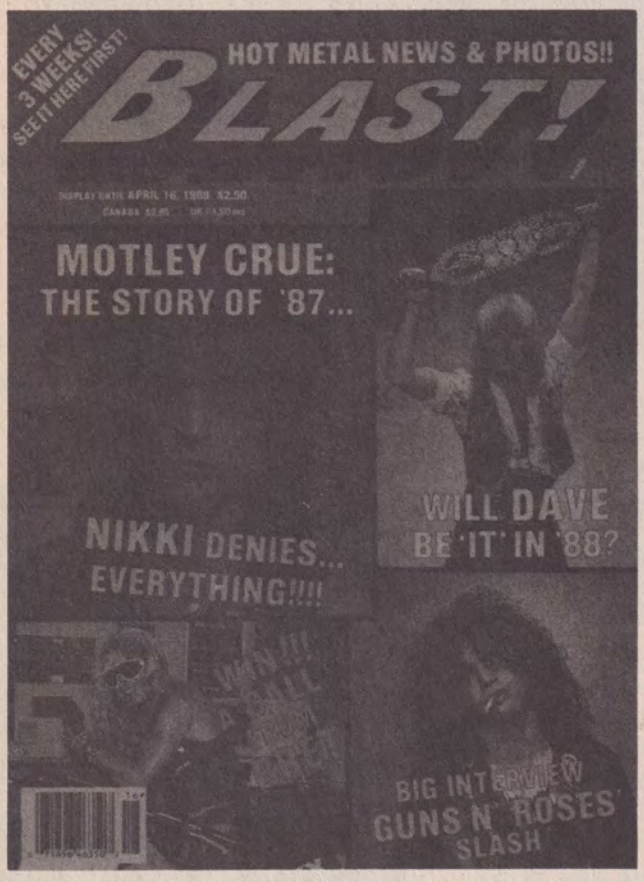
Where **GREAT WHITE** lurks, trouble is sure to follow. During a recent photo session with ace *BLAST!* photographer Neil Zlozower, the boys decided to involve themselves with some extracurricular activities between shots. Water ballooning was selected and the roof of the studio became the launching pad. Suddenly, all hell broke loose. Police cars encircled the building, guns were drawn and sirens blared. Helicopters were searching the surrounding area with their megalights. Seems neighbors had reported a breaking-and-entering. All the police found was that they had broken the monotony of a long arduous photo session. Boys will be boys...

photo by Ron Wolfson

Few people know that DICK CLARK is a diehard rock n roller, but STRYPER knows. After an appearance on *American Bandstand*, the popular band let Dick fool around with one of their guitars.

JEFFERSON STARSHIP will have to do without **GRACE SLICK** in the future. Grace announced she will no longer go on the road with the band but will continue to make records, with and without Jefferson Starship.

Continued on page 62



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LETTERS

GET ME TO MICK!

You're my only way to get to Mick Mars! I've written him so many hundreds of letters, I can't even count. All I've gotten in return is info on becoming a S.I.N. club member, so obviously he doesn't get my letters. To me, Mick IS life. He's my heart and soul, and no, I'm not just another fan who'll outgrow him when the next good-looking guy comes along. I've followed Mick's every move since 1984, and I intend to continue doing so for the rest of my life. I'm also a guitarist, and he's my main influence. My dream is to be as good as he is someday or, at least, close. I just wanted him to know someone out there thinks he's the most important thing on earth. I love you, Mick, and will forever!
Maria Capolupo
Grand Island, NY

DLR IS AWESOME!

I'm just getting into heavy metal and hard rock, and your magazine is the finest on the market. Would you please print an interview and poster of David Lee Roth? I'm only 12 years old, but I think he's awesome!
Charles Hue
Los Angeles, CA
You must have missed a few issues of ***BLAST!*** *We've published several interviews with Dave, and in this issue, you'll find another DLR feature! Also, check out* ***BLAST!****'s poster books at your newsstand!*

RATT HEART ATTACKS!

I'd just like to say that my friend, Shawna Miller, and I have heart attacks over Ratt's Stephen Pearcy and Robbin Crosby when they sing "Give It All," "Close To My Heart" and "Got Me On The Line" from their *Invasion* album. I hope they read this so they can write back to us. They sound so great together! Anyone out there who feels the same way about them, please write to me.
Tracy Humphries
Rt. 3, Box 562
Panama City, FL 32405

JUMP FOR BON JOVI!

I've heard quite a few stories about what happens to someone if they jump on stage while a band is performing. If it matters which band I'm talking about in particular, it's Bon Jovi. Could you explain the consequences or rewards?
Lorraine Sanzari
Kinnelon, NJ
Let's just say you're a heck of a lot better off not jumping on stage. You'll be taken off stage by bodyguards and sent back into the audience.

YOU CAN!

This is a response to 'the pissed-off Bon Jovi fan' Tracie Clothier. It's not as hard as you seem to think it is to meet your favorite band. My friend, Michelle Miller, and I have had the privilege of meeting Bon Jovi, Cinderella, Poison, Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Europe, Whitesnake and Guns N' Roses, just to name a few. We've even got the pictures and backstage passes to prove it. I'm not a groupie, and I didn't have to do any "favors" to get these great opportunities. All it takes is a little patience, politeness and a lot of determination. I've had some of the best times of my life with these great guys. I feel I've made some lasting friendships that will continue the next time these bands come back into town. So, if anyone still thinks they can't meet their favorite group, they're just lazy or stupid. I'm serious-- it's hard work getting the right chance, but it certainly pays off. I'm not giving away any of our secrets, but I will say it requires a good knowledge of the band and the place where they play.
Lea Bubeck
Sterling Hts., MI

STEPHEN PEARCY

I'm in total lust with Stephen Pearcy and a fan of Ratt's. I'd like to know if he's married or engaged. I'd like to see more sexy Ratt babes in your magazine, and could you please print more interviews with Ratt?
Kisa Zognibe
Olean, NY
Ratt is in pre-production right now for their next killer album, so, sit tight--the guys will be talking to the press soon. As far as Stephen is concerned, no, he's not married-- he's the dating kind of guy...

ROUGH CUTT ➡

If you feel like writing, bang it out and send it off to:

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P.O. Box 91876
Los Angeles CA 90009

FEATURE

By Arlett Vereecke

GUNS N' ROSES' SLASH:

A SUPERB SOULFUL ROCK GUITARIST

There's no argument here: Guns N' Roses are the fastest-rising rock band on the scene today.

It's been said many times before, but it bears repeating: They'll be bigger and larger than The Stones ever were. The band has all of the right ingredients: Axl's vocal capacities and presence are downright out of this world, while lead guitarist Slash developed his own blues-oriented style most rock fans have been craving for many years.

At a recent Los Angeles Aerosmith/ Dokken concert attended by rockers such as Motley's Tommy Lee and Nikki Sixx, Metallica's Lars Ulrich and James Hetfield, the whole Ratt pack, Blackie Lawless, Bon Jovi and many others, Slash was, by far, the most- mobbed person in the hall!

Slash is probably the most identifiable Gunner in the band, but looks aside, this is one cool dude!

Meeting Slash is quite a revelation. He's entertainment to the max--funny, bright, caring, always supplying the party spirit, and he loves to drink shots of Jack Daniels. Parties and playing guitar aren't his only interests in life, though. A bookworm (who favors horror stories as well as horror movies), Slash is quite up to date on what's going on in the world. But most of all, he's intriguing, and as the saying goes, curiosity killed the cat.

Born and raised in England, where he lived with his dad and grandparents, Slash (at 11) and his family relocated to America and joined his mother, who was, for business reasons, still L.A.-based.

"Straight to Hollywood," he laughs, "and ALL of Hollywood, too, because my family was always real mobile," Slash states. "We never lived in one place for more than a year, so I lived in all of the greater Hollywood area."

Although there are no other musicians in his family, both of Slash's parents worked indirectly in the industry--his dad, as an art director in charge of creating album covers, and his mom, as a very sought-after clothes designer for superstars such as David Bowie, Chaka Khan and many others.

"Steve Adler had an amplifier in his bedroom, and he'd just plug it in and turn it up all the way, and bang on his guitar real loud and I was just fascinated by it."

"We had a record collection that was just vast!" he recalls. "One wall, about 16 feet long, was piled up with crates of records. I just loved music, and all I used to do all day was pick out records to listen to from The Who, Joni Mitchell, Minnie Ripperton, The Stones, Chaka Khan, Rufus, Cream, Derek & The Dominoes, David Bowie, The Beatles and more, but I

photo by Neil Zlozower

never planned or aspired to be a musician at that time."

He credits fellow Gunner Steve Adler with turning him on to playing in the first place. "Steven had an amplifier in his bedroom," Slash explains, "and he had all of these Kiss records. He was a total Kiss freak. He had a guitar and an amp, and he'd just plug it in and turn it all of the way up when his grandparents were at work and bang on it real loud, and I was just fascinated by it. Right off, I wanted to start a band but didn't know anything about playing. I just wanted to be in a band and learn how to play. Steve had a guitar, but he couldn't play guitar; he just knew how to bang on it. He'd bang, like, one song on one string, and since he had a guitar, he wanted me to play bass. I decided that if I wanted to learn how to play, the first thing I should do is try and take some lessons. I had no instrument of my own, and I was really ignorant about the whole thing. I wasn't piecing it together or trying to look at it realistically. So, what happened was, I went to take lessons without an instrument. The teacher asked me which instrument I'd rather play, bass or guitar, and I didn't know the difference! When he explained the difference, I said, 'Guitar.' It sounded more interesting--it had more strings on it, and I never went back to take lessons.

"I took guitar lessons, but I was pretty ignorant to the whole thing. I wasn't hearing Ted Nugent, Aerosmith or Cheap Trick in the things that he was teaching me, so eventually I quit."

"First, I got a one-string guitar from a garage sale or something, and I started teaching myself UFO songs, Aerosmith songs, all on one string. I'd be going up and down the neck, you know--you have to stretch around.

"Finally, my grandmother bought me a cheap acoustic nylon-string guitar. I thought, 'Now that I've got the right instrument, I should go back to this guitar teacher,' and I did. He started teaching me stuff I wasn't interested in--things like rudiments, basically. Still pretty much ignorant of the whole thing, I wasn't hearing Ted Nugent, Aerosmith or Cheap Trick in the things he was teaching me, so, eventually, I quit.

"As soon as I quit, all of a sudden, I became very attuned to the whole thing and got really involved, and from then on, my life revolved around playing guitar. I was practicing, learning records, learning guitar licks, learning how to scam to get money to get other guitars and going through and doing the whole musician thing.

"I was really diligent about it, and I got to the point where I would go to school and just ditch school entirely and sit in the bleachers and play my guitar all day. For some reason, everybody stayed away from me all of the time--not because I was an a--hole or anything, but because my head was so into this, and I became very

introverted.

"I went through a series of different bands, one of them being Roadcrew, which was a band I think was the first real musical thing I was involved in where we actually went out and played at high schools and parties."

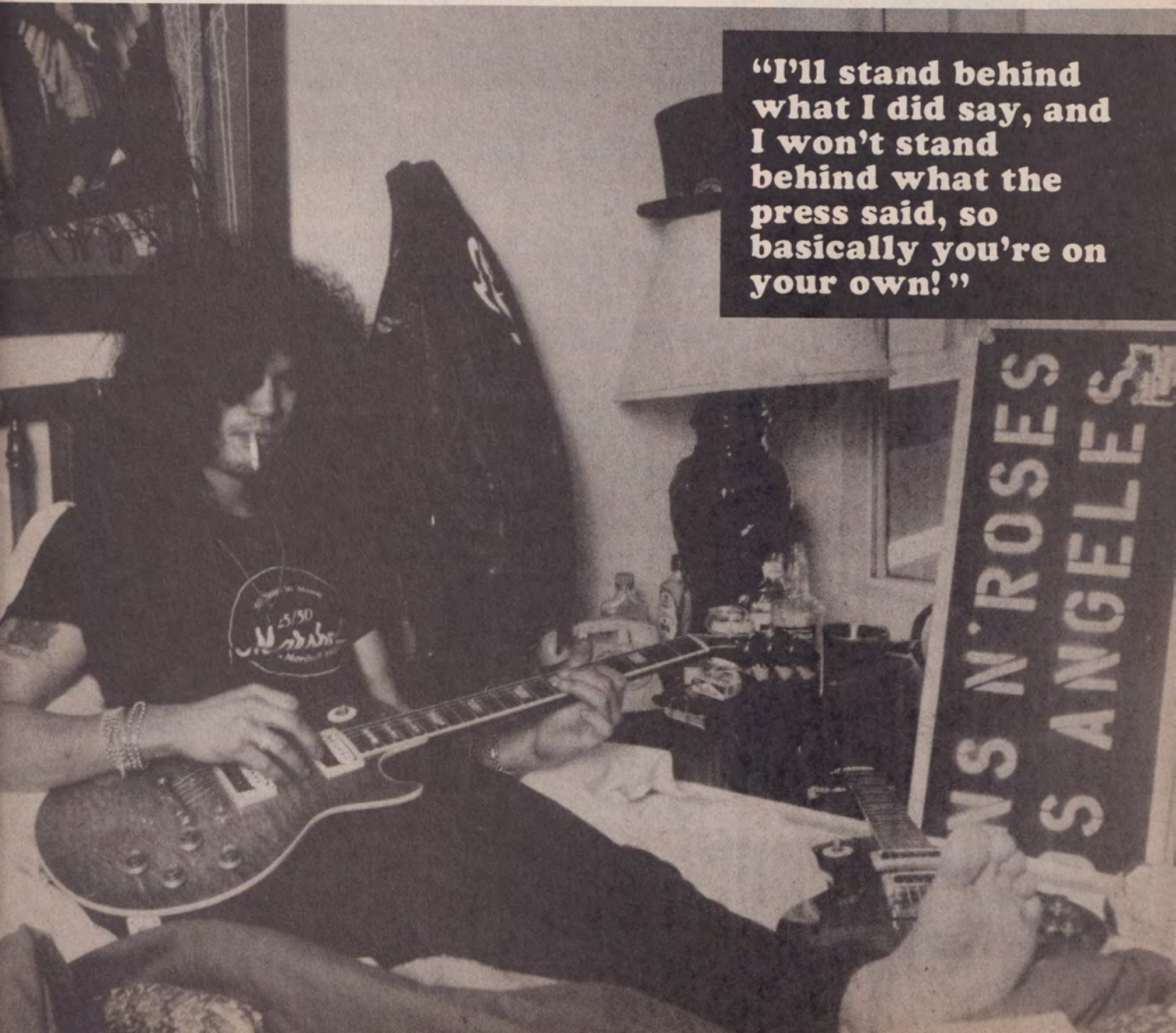
Steve Adler was out of the picture during that time. He had become a vocalist but couldn't sing, so it was back to the drawing board for him.

"One day, out of the blue, Steven showed up at a gig and said, 'Get rid of your drummer--he's not good enough!'" Slash reports. "I did, and Steven and I carried on Roadcrew, which was really a great band, but we could never find a good singer. So, here I was with a killer three-man group and no singer. At the same time, I was working in a guitar shop, and Izzy came in one day because he'd seen a drawing I did of Aerosmith and wanted to know if he could get a copy of it, and that's how we met.

"Some time later, I met Axl, and Steven said, 'They have a band--you've got to see their band.' At that time, I wasn't really interested in another guitar player because I'd never played with another guitar player. I just wanted to steal Axl for my own band, but I couldn't get Axl away from Izzy. They were like, 'F--k you!' And I was like, 'All right, f--k you, too, then!' If it won't happen, it won't happen.

"Eventually, Roadcrew broke up, and somewhere along the line, Steven got hooked up with Izzy and Axl, while I would do all kinds of strange stuff. I would play with anybody I could play with, and again, Steven pushed me to go down and play for Axl and Izzy because the guitar player they had wasn't happening, and Steven persuaded Axl and Izzy to check me out again.

"Axl and Izzy came down with this distant sort of attitude--the 'check-me-out' attitude. Steven told me, unbeknownst to them, to play my most ripping


"I'll stand behind what I did say, and I won't stand behind what the press said, so basically you're on your own!"
NS N'ROSES
S ANGELES

heavy metal blah, blah, blah. By this time, I'd become a proficient enough guitar player to play heavy metal, but mostly what I was into was blues stuff, but I could incorporate heavy metal into the blues or blues into heavy metal. The first thing I did was just wail, and they said, 'That's great, but what happened to that stuff you played for us the last time we met you?' I said, 'Oh... ' I played it, they dug it, and we got together."

"The feud between us and Poison isn't even a feud. All I can say is that something was blown way out of proportion by a member of the so-called press.

Of course, in- between, there was the now-infamous Poison audition...

"I'm to blame for a lot of this whole Poison situation," he reveals, "because as Alan Niven, my manager, says, 'It's just another Slash scam.' What I used to do was, I would join bands and play one gig with them if it was a big enough place and join the band right at the right time when that gig was gonna happen. I'd rehearse with them and go out and do it for exposure. I was sort of like a loan shark in that sense, and it's sort of selfish, but it's a selfish business in that you've got to get by. So, I'd go out and play with bands because I couldn't get my own thing happening.

"I wasn't gonna sit around and keep putting ads in the paper and wait around until I was 20. I could be as old as I am now and not have done anything. I still haven't seen really anything I'm impressed with come out of Los Angeles. I mean, I love what we're doing, and I honestly think that out of most of the bands in L.A., this is one of the few that really has any substance to them. And this is what I was fighting against when I was trying out for Poison. Matt, their ex-guitar player, called me and said, 'Listen, I'm going back to Pittsburgh. I'm starting a family, and Poison is open, and if anybody can do it, you can.'

"Matt was really cool, and I dug him a lot. So, here I am thinking, 'Great! I know this band from when I played with them in Hollywood Rose! They're basically the epitome of what I can't stand, but I'll go down there and play with them, and it'll do wonders for me as far as getting out there is concerned. The auditions lasted for, like, two weeks. I went down a couple of times, had the songs down, played them really well, and then they called me up and said, 'Well, everything's going great. Let's have a meeting. This is like a dress rehearsal--don't bring your guitar.'

"I went down there, and I figured, if anything, they could have the style and image they had, and I'd still go down there being me, and I could always be the f---ing foil for what they do and probably get away with it, but they wanted me to change my shoes, asked me what kind of pants I wore, how I did my hair and all of this stuff, and I was really irked by the whole thing. Anyway, me and C.C. were the two guitar players who ended up being the last two to be picked, and finally, one day, we had a big argument about this thing in the set where they say, 'Hi' and introduce themselves, and there was no way I was gonna go up and say, 'Hi, I'm Slash' and do a guitar lick and be real cute about it, so C.C. got the job, which was no big deal. It was just another passing thing, and I went on to do whatever. Now it's sort of backfiring on me because I got the impression that it looks like I'm bitter because C.C. got the job and I didn't, which is not the case. I'm not jealous of thei band's success. I'm not jealous of C.C.'s position or any of tha stuff."

So, basically, the whole so-called feud was blown way out of proportion by the press?

"Let me tell you," Slash confides, "the feud between us and Poison isn't even a feud. It' just a situation that happened between me and one of their band members, and it was nothing so serious that had to turn into this full- blown type of ordeal. It held no bearing on the rest of the guys in the band.

"I don't have anything agains the entire band enough for them to go and cause a major problem with the lady from our record company, and I haven't said anything else in the press about it. It's not been such a major concern that it's on my mind, and if they want to take it that far, they can, but the only thing I have to say is that I thought it was in really bad taste.

"If they really wanted to make a point about it, they could have come to me, or they could have come to the rest of the band, who, in turn, would have talked to me about it. I don't want to start a fight with them. I don't want to try to beat them up. I don't want to do anything like that. All I can say is that something was blown way out of proportion by a member of the so- called press, and it was nowhere near as big a statement as it was made out in print to be, so I can understand the misunderstanding there, but at the same time, regardless, I don't think the whole thing is answered by that kind of action. I'll stand behind what I did say, but I won't stand behind what the press said, and, you know, basically, you're on your own!"

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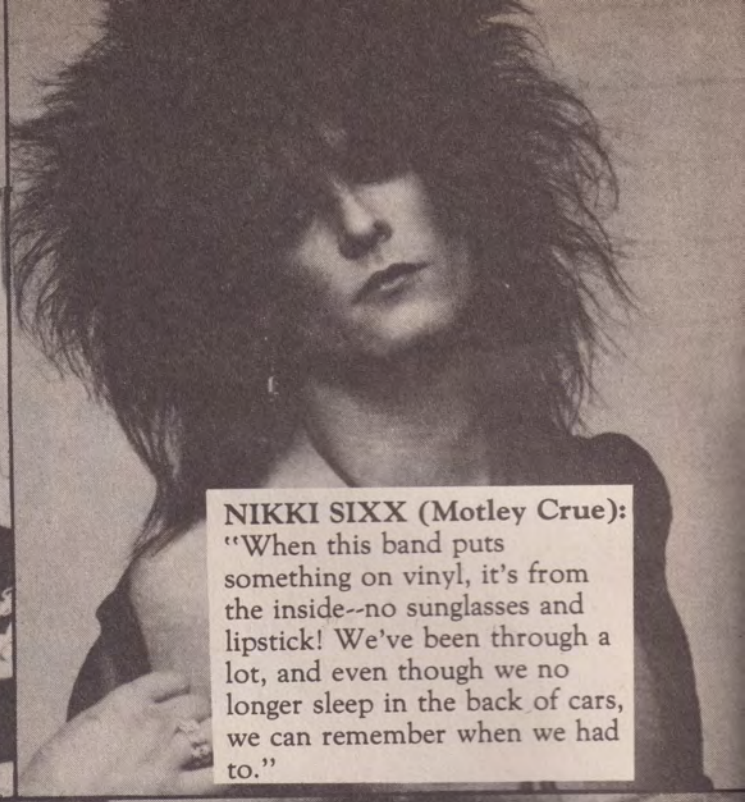
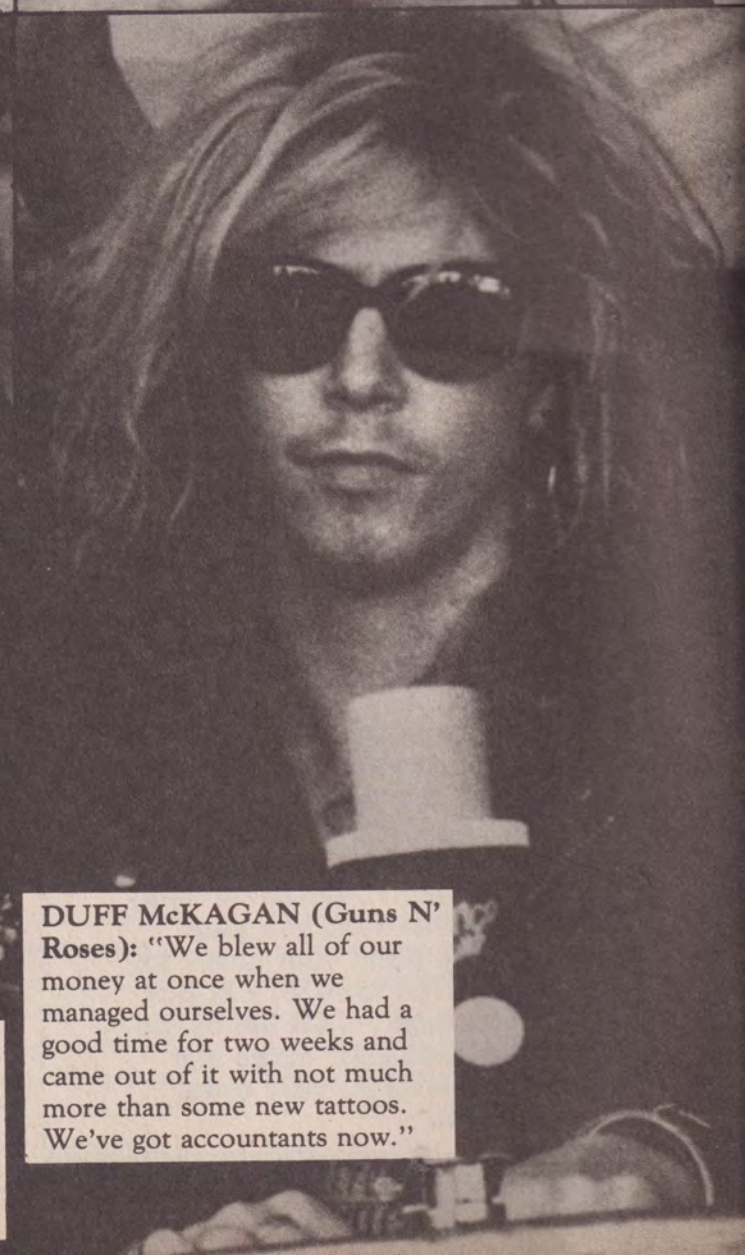
FAMOUS LAST WORDS

BRET MICHAELS (Poison): "No matter how much we fight with each other, we really get along! When we hit the stage, it's like an explosion!"

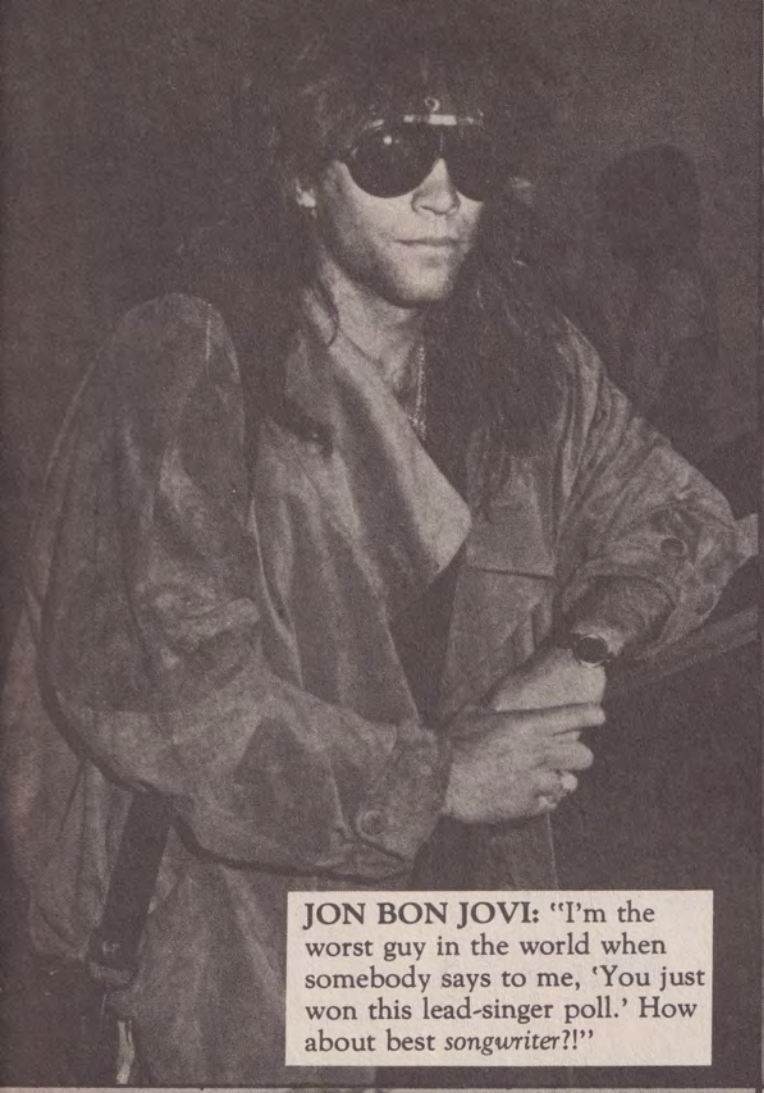


NIKKI SIXX (Motley Crue): "When this band puts something on vinyl, it's from the inside--no sunglasses and lipstick! We've been through a lot, and even though we no longer sleep in the back of cars, we can remember when we had to."

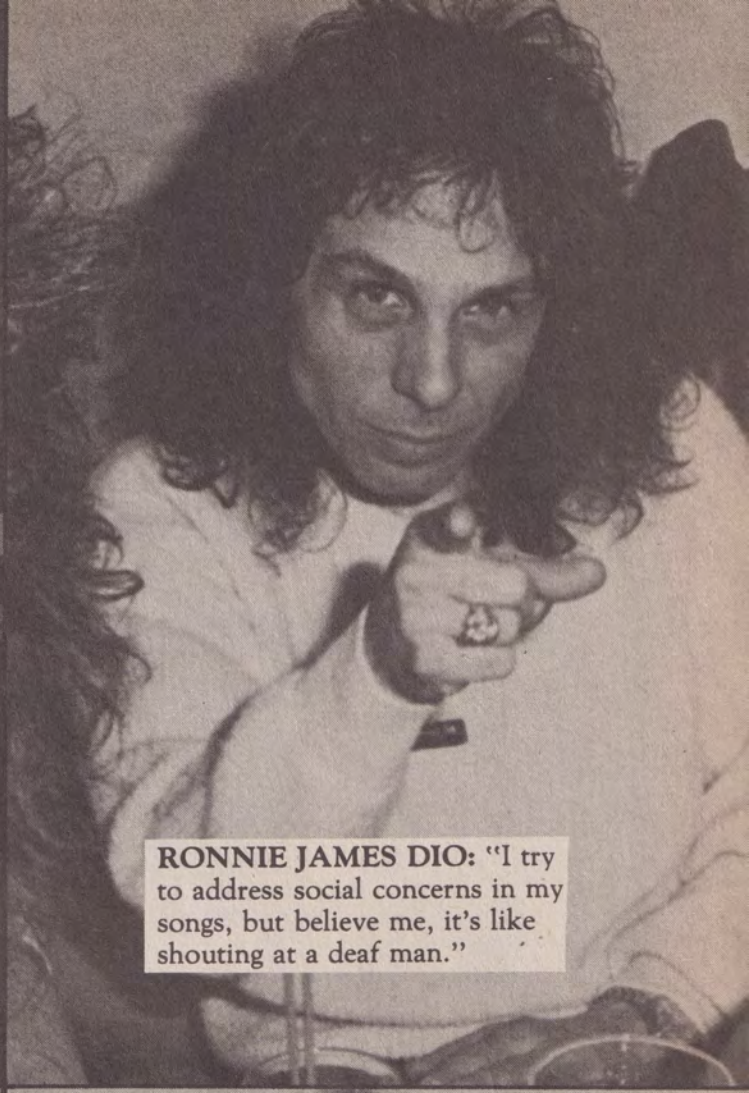
STEPHEN PEARCY (Ratt): "I really can't see any danger in videos except in the way that a lot of groups keep using these stupid dancers. That really bums me out."



DUFF McKAGAN (Guns N' Roses): "We blew all of our money at once when we managed ourselves. We had a good time for two weeks and came out of it with not much more than some new tattoos. We've got accountants now."

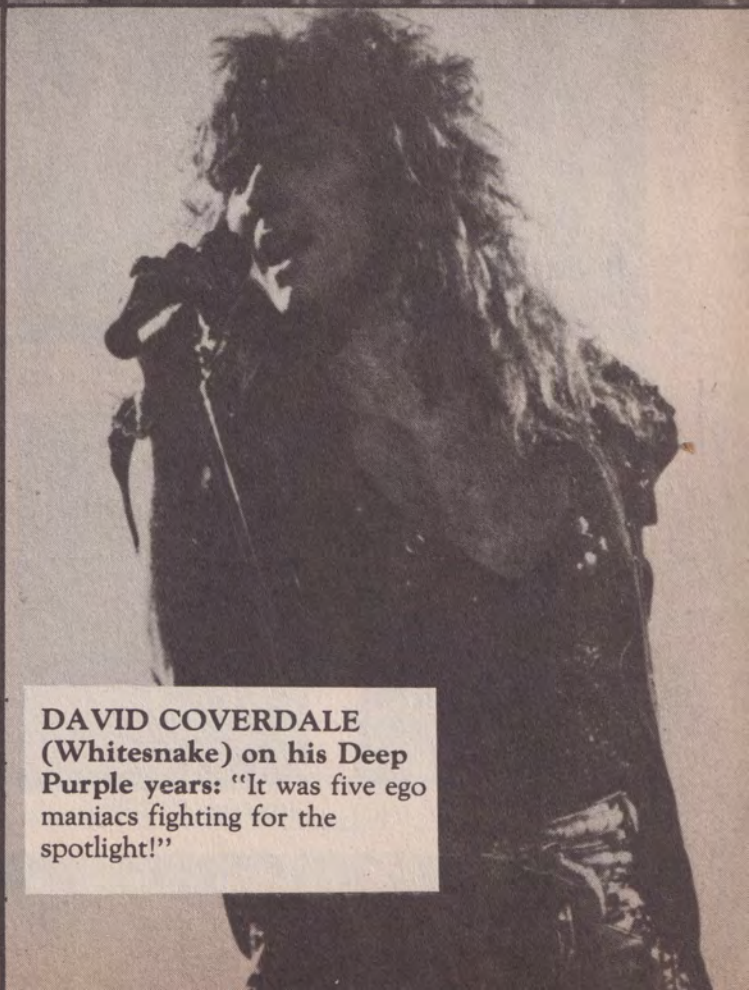


JON BON JOVI: "I'm the worst guy in the world when somebody says to me, 'You just won this lead-singer poll.' How about best *songwriter*?!"



RONNIE JAMES DIO: "I try to address social concerns in my songs, but believe me, it's like shouting at a deaf man."

GEORGE LYNCH (Dokken) "Earthquakes scare me. That's why I moved from L.A. When you're a kid, it's like, 'Yeah! Surf the earthquake!' But when you think about the damage, it's scary."



DAVID COVERDALE (Whitesnake) on his Deep Purple years: "It was five ego maniacs fighting for the spotlight!"

FOR SALE!

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ALL OUT MEGA-METAL
BLAST!
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MOTLEY CRUE ON THE PROWL AGAIN!
IRON MAIDEN THEY CAN'T BE STOPPED
WIN! A PHONE CALL FROM RONNIE JAMES DIO
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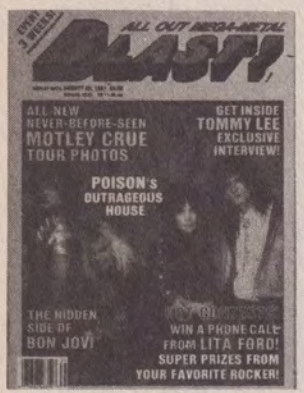
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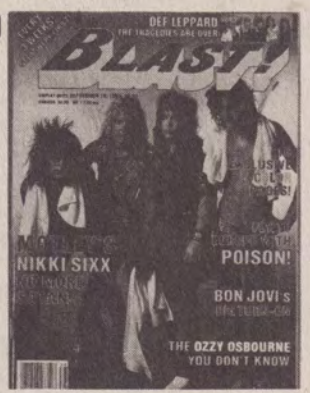

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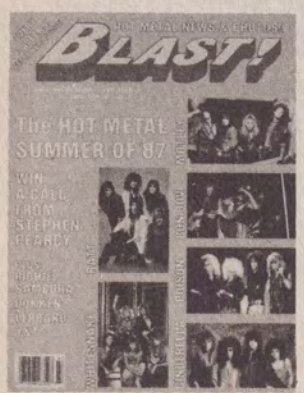

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FEATURE

KISS TALKS ABOUT...

THEMSELVES:

Gene Simmons: "We're here to provide a certain amount of stability--things you can count on, like Christmas and Kiss. Through thick and thin, we've tried to be ourselves, no matter what. Through dance and disco and reggae--anything that's existed--Kiss is Kiss. Some people call us depraved individuals; some people call us metal. But before there was metal, there was Kiss."

Paul Stanley: "Kiss is about having a good time... every way possible. If you want bad news, read the obituary section or Page 1 of your local newspaper. We're living proof that you can play the game your way and win. The people who say you can't are the ones who've failed."

THEIR NEW ALBUM, *CRAZY NIGHTS*:

Paul: "There was a real conscious effort that I wanted to spend more time writing this time, because I thought, 'Are we the best Kiss we can be? Maybe, if we tried, we could take it another step further.' And that meant more time and more effort writing. Seven of my songs are on the record, but I don't think that's due to anything except that it's just the way it turned out. We're much more concerned with having great tunes than making sure that everybody in the band is represented as a writer. But we all get credit that's due us just by being a member of the band."

Gene: "The new album is another step in furthering our goal, which is to put more dirt under the fingernails of the collective consciousness of America. *Somebody's* got to do it. Ron Nevison, who produced this album, adapted a very clinical medium and was able to make it warm."

RON NEVISON, THEIR FIRST OUTSIDE PRODUCER

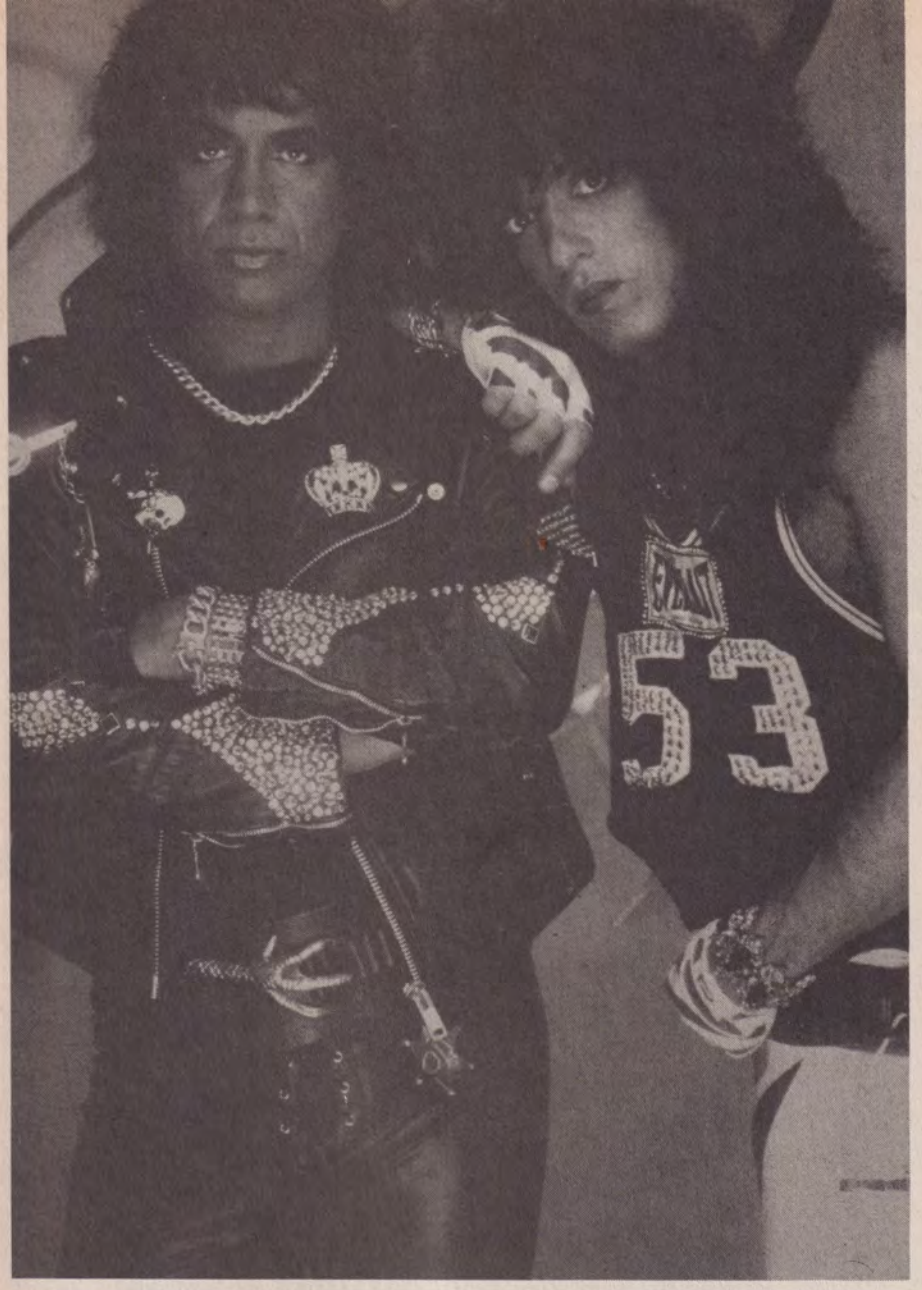
Gene: "Ron has his own style, but what I like most about it was that he didn't try to change who we are. We hadn't brought in an outside producer for a long time because only we know what Kiss is. Nobody else does. Still, sometimes it's important to have other ears to bounce off of. Nevison did a great job.

Paul: "Right now, our track record is about four or five times as long as most producers'. So, we were not about to relinquish power or decisions in the studio to someone who's this year's wonder boy, which Ron obviously is not. The idea of a collaboration was one that yielded pretty large rewards. It was like combining chemicals which are pretty volatile on their own, and when you put them together, you have something totally explosive."

THE PARENTS' MUSIC RESOURCE CENTER (PMRC)

Paul: "Well, let's talk about the PMRC. They're not important, they have no power, they haven't brought about any change, and to deal with them on any level that makes them out to be a force to contend with is absurd. They're obviously a bunch of misdirected people. Also, I think if the time comes that we vote for a politician, and we have to go interview his wife first, we'll have reached a very sad time. When a wife is holding 'whatever' over her husband's head so she can get her chance to be on a soapbox and get on television, then... I don't know--maybe she ought to see if there are any chores that need doing around the house."

Gene: "Heavy metal--if you want to call us that--is the one remaining form of rock 'n' roll that's truly rebellious. And that's good. On the day that Mom and Dad start liking the same kind of music you do, then it's over. There was a preacher down south who came up with the idea that Kiss stands for 'Knights In Satan's Service.' I couldn't be that creative if you paid me! And what's interesting is that every one of those guys who talks about 'decadent' stuff always has a P.O. box for people to send in their donations. And they keep saying I'm going to



hell... I'll see them there."

PASSING TRENDS IN MUSIC:

Paul: "We've always stayed true to what we do. We trust our own instincts, and if it's in fashion this year, fine; if not, we're gonna do it anyhow, and sooner or later, you'll see things our way."

Gene: "I give fans much more credit than apparently either the press or critics do. Ultimately, people decide for themselves whether something's cool or not. Long hair hasn't been fashionable for 15 years, yet it's persevered. Kids still want to have long hair. Playing loud is supposed to be unfashionable, but meat and potatoes still taste good."

THEIR FANS:

Paul: "The relationship we have with our fans keeps us going. I think there's no substituting for real involvement and dedication to your audience. And when you give that to a fan, the fan reciprocates. When we get that kind of feedback and outpouring from the audience, we give that much more. A good relationship with your fans is like great sex: The more you give, the more they give. You never know where it's going to end up, and there's no better trophy than sweat."

Gene: "I think the lyric to 'Crazy Crazy Nights' is pretty much self-explanatory: 'These are my people, this is my crowd; this is my music, we love it loud.'"

THEIR CURRENT TOUR:

Paul: "We've always been a visual band in that we never thought it was enough just to make music. Hey, this is show biz, and I want to show as much as I can. To me, Kiss is like a rock 'n' roll hot rod: The paint and chrome knock your socks off, but believe me, the horsepower wins the race."

Gene: "Let's just say that you could play a football game on the stage. We have rampways that can be set up in any direction; they go into the audience, and so the stage no longer separates the band from the crowd. Look out, Miss America, here we come!"

LIFE:

Gene: "We never talk about politics or religion or the secret of life. We've just always been committed to the idea that life is good, so enjoy it! Have a good time... but not at the expense of yourself and not at the expense of other people."

Paul: "Life is a one-way ticket, and I'm trying to get on as many rides as I can."

INSPIRATION:

Paul: "Our songs are pages taken from our daily diaries and set to music. Do we really live like this? You'd better believe it!"

EXOTIC FAN MAIL:

Gene: "I've received slave offerings. Also, gifts are sent, and invariably, there are some very good examples of photographic art. We have some very talented fans... and people keep asking me why I do this!"

INTERVIEW

By Sylvie Simmons

More from OZZY's New Guitarist...

ZAKK WYLDE!

Last issue we introduced you to Zakk Wylde—Ozzy Osbourne's new guitarist. Since he's following in the footsteps previously occupied by such greats as Randy Rhoads and Jake E. Lee, we thought you'd like to read the balance of the interview that we began in our last issue.

***BLAST!*: With Ozzy's reputation as a madman, does it worry you that you won't be taken as seriously as a guitarist as you might like... just another sidekick to the man who bites heads off animals?**
ZAKK: It's true--Ozzy has a million and one crazy stories, and they're all true! But whatever Ozzy's reputation, you can't deny there's a talent there--there's great music and great songs. It's not just a case of going CRAAAAAZZZZZY! He can sing. So, there's plenty to be taken seriously. And as for me, it depends on how well I play.

***BLAST!*: Ozzy told me his only worry with you was that you're great in rehearsals, but how will you cope in an arena situation when you've never been outside of a local club before? How do you think you'll handle it?**
ZAKK: Well, I love playing in front of people. I'm sure I'm going to have butterflies in my stomach the first arena we do. But it depends on if you're ready or not, too. If I know everything totally backwards, I'm not going to go out there and think, "Well, what do I do now?" It should be okay. And I feel confident with Ozzy; he'll help me along.

***BLAST!*: How do you feel about the prospect of long tours, being away from home for months on end?**
ZAKK: I've never done it before, and I can't wait to do it. I'm sure I'll be the first one out the door! I'm really excited. In the past few months with Ozzy, I've been to London and to L.A., and that's further than I've been in my whole life!

***BLAST!*: Ozzy says he wants to bring you out of yourself a bit more--make you a little more self-confident and egotistical as a guitarist. Has he been trying?**
ZAKK: Yes (laughs). He sat me down and said, "You've got to quit being a nice guy." He'll yell at me and say, "Don't just sit there--try something different." But I don't want to do what other people do. It's the same thing with equipment. Ozzy's saying, "What about a Charvel or a nice Flying-V?" And I'm going, "Forget it!" It's the same with amps; if everyone's using Marshalls, I want to use something else. But I've been trying different guitars lately. For years, all I played is my Gibson Les Paul, but I just got this nice Fender Stratocaster with these beefed-up pick-ups, and I can still get the old guitar sound but lots more colors and tones and use it for different things.

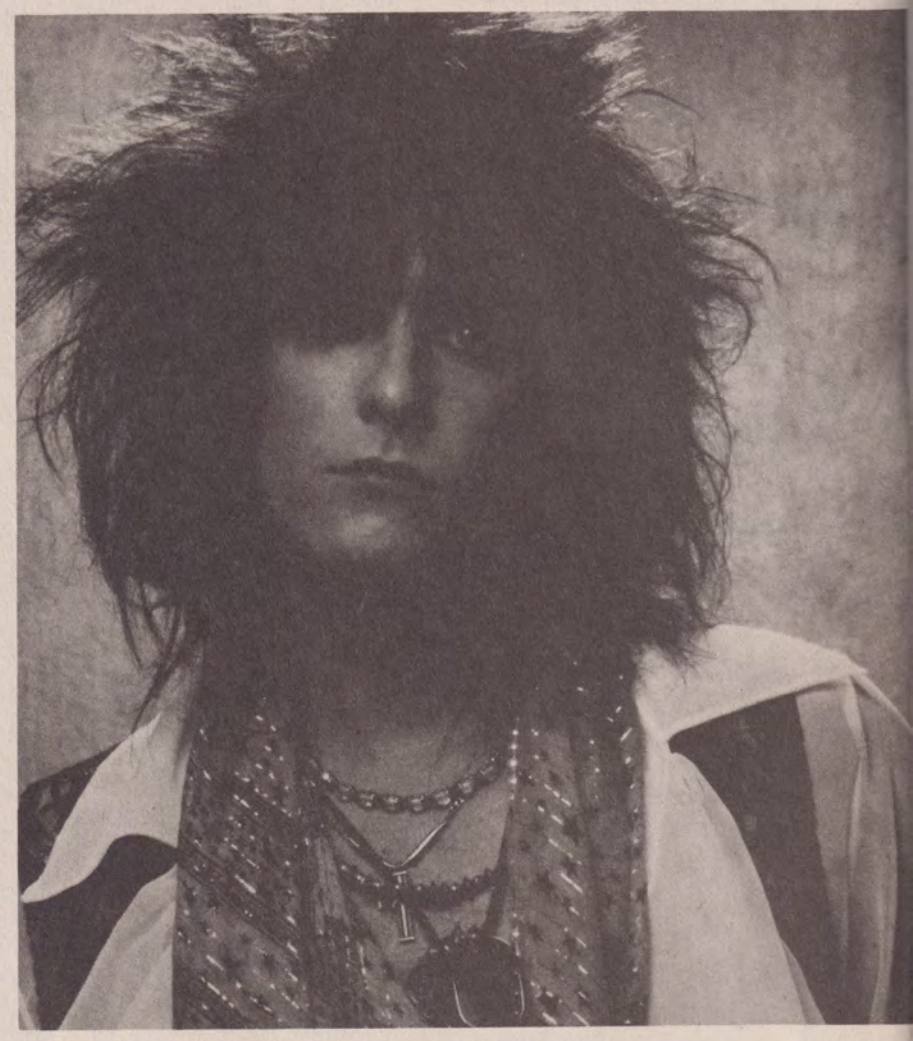
***BLAST!*: Can you define your own style--say what it is that makes you different?**
ZAKK: Well, it's not this Yngwie-type stuff that's happening a lot nowadays. It's fun to play, once you've got your speed to the point where you can do it that fast, and if you can do it, you might as well do it because it's taken a lot of work to get there. But it's the same with those singers who can sing so high they can shatter glass, so all they do is scream the whole time.

***BLAST!*: What do you most want to get out of this job with Ozzy?**
ZAKK: I don't know--just go with it and see where it takes me.

***BLAST!*: Ozzy has a habit of changing his band members quite quickly. Do you see this as a longterm thing for you?**
ZAKK: I don't know. I'll be there as long as he needs me.

COVER STORY

MOTLEY CRUE:



NIKKI SIXX DENIES EVERYTHING!

Nikki Sixx might very well be lying. He kinda likes to do that. Something of a law unto himself, the powerful hunk of a bassist is acting all outraged at the mere mention of the presence of personal problems fouling the air of Motley Crue's current situation.

"Awhhhhhhhhh... forget it!" he storms angrily. "Who knows why people say these things about us. Yeah, I've heard all the rumors and that's about all they are. Maybe people are jealous of our success. I really don't know. I honestly don't care. I'll tell you what I'm telling everybody. I'm not into drugs. As far as my 'thing' with Vanity-- it's over. But it has nothing to do with drugs. All I really want to say about that is that I'm a free man and I'm looking to stay that way. I'm dating again and not looking for any specific girl friend. For now, I just want to see a few nice girls. I've always seemed to have had one girlfriend. We got a lot of bad mail when Vanity and I got engaged. A lot of the fans were really upset about me getting married. People called the office and there was lotsa bad press. Forget it. It's over! We didn't get married. I broke off the

"Yeah, of course I've heard all the rumors that we're on drugs and having a lot of problems. Who knows why people say those things about us? I don't! Maybe they're just jealous? Really, who cares?!"
—Nikki Sixx

engagement. I just want to be a free man again, ok? I like all women too much to settle for just one. Not now, anyway."

Probably the whole girlfriend agenda is going to take a back seat for awhile as far as Nikki is concerned. He's got one major thing on his mind and it may be his true beloved, the one passion he has stayed faithful to no matter what else is going on in his life. We speak of songwriting, of course.

"When Motley makes an album, which is what we're doing right now," Nikki explains, "from the first track on side one to the last track on side two, it has to be the greatest quality rock n roll music anyone can write, or I'm not going to let it out of the box. There is a very serious side to me, even though I tend to be more open about my humorous side. I've let things go down in the past with my lifestyle, drugs or women or whatever, that can really screw over the music. I don't like that. I don't want that to happen anymore. Right now, this band is hot to write and record. That's why we came off the road a little bit early."

While most of Western Europe was trying to order tickets for Motley's arena styled tour this Spring, Nikki and gang were cancelling out of the whole chibang. Naturally, the press and rock wags went with rumors of drugs and serious health problems to explain this sudden withdrawal of Crue dates overseas, but Nikki insists that's all bull...

"No way, that isn't the reason at all. It's much simpler than that. We were dog tired! We'd been hauling the *Girls, Girls, Girls* tour around America and Japan for almost a year, and everybody was totally exhausted.

"There was another reason as well," he continues, somewhat wearily. "You see, we suddenly switched over to a writing mode so to speak. With songwriting, you can't just ignore the times you have the urge to write, to say something, to use that very crucial means of expressing yourself. When that hits--you've got to go for it. Period! Well, it was happening to us. Because we were tired of all the touring at that point, it just made sense to go home and attend to the business of writing. With our last albums, we've had to do most of the writing at the last minute. I didn't want to do that again. I really wanted to write while I had something to say. We all agreed completely and made the joint decision to postpone the European branch of this tour

Fans will probably be very surprised to hear that Nikki and Tommy Lee have plans to produce other acts in the near future. And they won't even be heavy rock acts! They'll be rhythm and blues artists!

until after the new album is out. Instead of waiting until the end of the tour to hit London and the rest of Europe, we'll begin the tour there. We do want to play Europe. But we don't want to be ragged-out when we do it. We'd rather be fresh and raring to go."

Since music is the one stable means Nikki has to bring his personal life into balance again, the feisty musician is extending some of his musical projects this year to include producing other artists.

"Tommy and I are going to take some other artists into the studio and do some cuts on them," he reveals. "They will be outside projects that we will do under our own production company. We will produce some r&b and some different forms of music. We don't want to produce another heavy metal band or something. We'd rather stretch out a bit and try some different kinds of things like funk, soul and r&b. Maybe we'll try some progressive rock as well."

Because Nikki feels his own songwriting is too personal to hand over to an outside artist, he may not do the writing for these new production projects.

"Naw, I'll save my lyrics for Motley," he grins. "See, no matter what else I do, Motley is always going to be number one! These guys are like my brothers. We stick together through everything!"

Vanity sez...

When asked on a recent TV talk show about her break up with the infamous Nikki Sixx, Vanity demurely batted her eyes, looked down and softly said, "Well, you just don't fall out of love very quickly, do you?" The subject was quickly changed to a safer topic like her current movie, *Action Jackson*. So, what really happened? Your guess is as good as anyone elese's...

photo by Ross Halfin

WHITESNAKE: Ready To Strike Again!

Can Coverdale and Gang Top *Whitesnake?*

David Coverdale was prancing back and forth like a wild colt, kicking up his heels as his long, blond hair flew behind him. Reminiscent of early Robert Plant/ Led Zeppelin, he was pure sex and raunch, gyrating to the music, sending his vocal aerobics careening into the already-hysterical crowd.

Detroit had a very special significance to David. "It was the first place I ever played in America with Deep Purple," the superstar of pop metal explained in ringing British tones. "It's so important to me now to actually see and touch the audience. When I was with Purple all of those years ago, I never met any of the people who were buying our records. All I ever met was record-company people. I didn't know who I was touching. However, when I started Whitesnake, it was much more of a street-level kind of thing. I could look out there and actually see just how much certain songs meant to people. You have no idea of what it's like to actually share a song with over 20,000 people!

"Today, I've put together a crew which I think is the very best in the world, and the musicians I now work with I absolutely adore," the sensuous blues basher reveals.

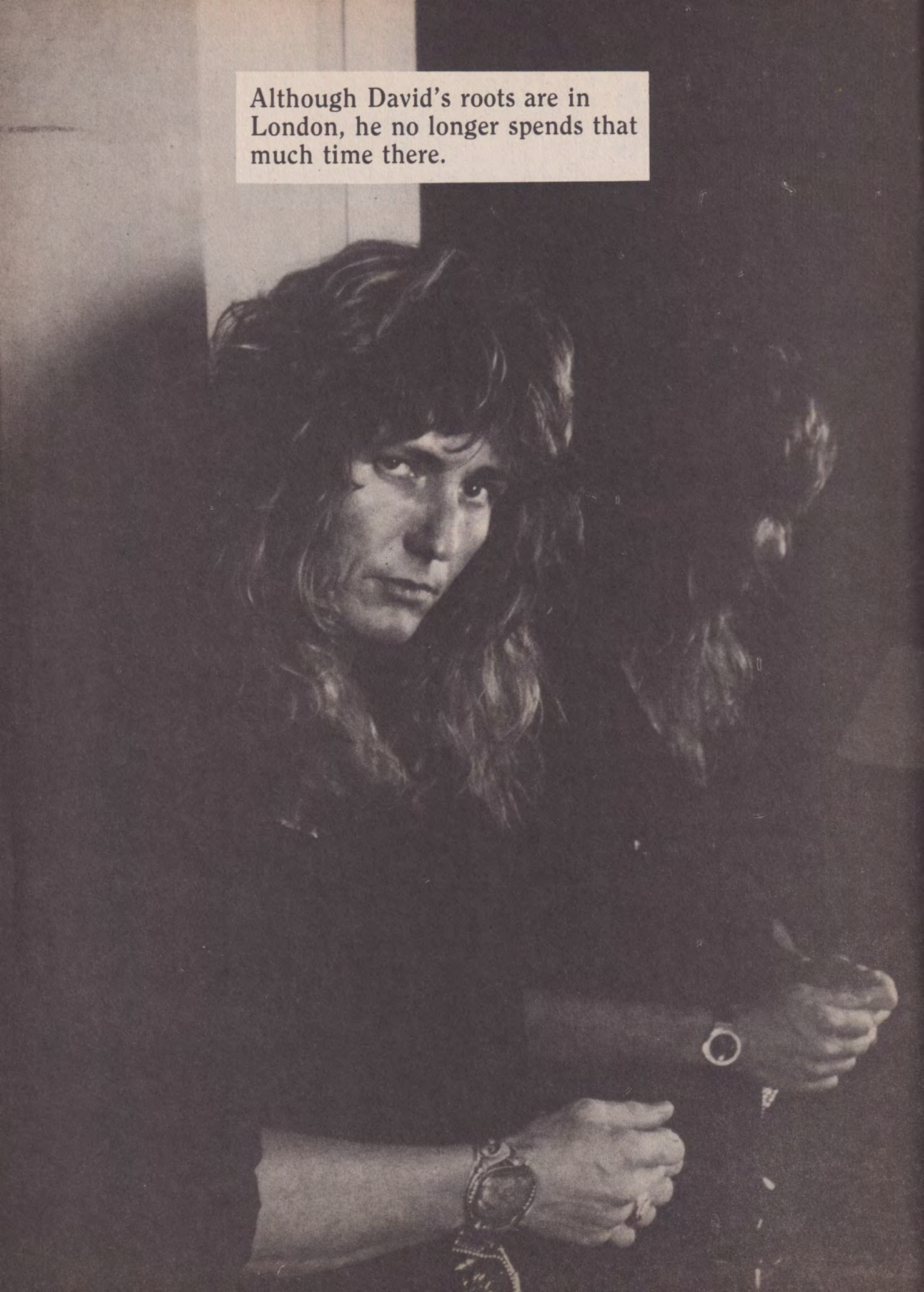
When faced for at least the millionth time with this reporter's "Robert Plant" comparisons, Coverdale is kind, yet direct: "It's true, but it's funny. Once, Joe Elliott (Def Leppard) was telling me that his biggest influences were me and Robert Plant. The thing is, both Robert and I draw from the same influences--not from each other. I like Wilson Pickett and Otis Redding. I agree there's a great deal of similarity between Plant and myself, but again, that's because we come from the same school of influences. I think he said he actually liked Elvis (Presley) quite a lot, whereas I was more into Little Richard.

"You see, with Deep Purple, I was very shaped by the dynamics Ian Paice put into his drumming. Robert had the same thing going with John Bonham's drumming. You can see why we might have come out sounding very similar at certain times. By the way, for all of those who think we might be rivals because of these comparisons, let me inform you that we are good friends."

After years of being the band other bands were terrified to take on the road with them ("It was awful. There's this paranoia about the platinum-level superstar band in America that makes them want to take a turkey act out with them when

> "When I started Whitesnake, it was much more of a street level kind of thing."

photo by Ross Halfin/Photofeatures



Although David's roots are in London, he no longer spends that much time there.

BLAST! SURVEY ALL RIGHT METAL HEADS! IT'S TIME TO CONFESS!

Since BLAST! is put out for you, the editors want to know exactly what you want to read about and we want to hear it straight from the streets.

Just fill out this survey, and if yours is one of the 25 *completely filled out* surveys selected at random by the staff at BLAST!, then you will receive a surprise gift from BLAST! It's our way of saying thanks for the advice.

So hammer out the answers and mail them to: *BLAST!* Survey 10, P.O. Box 91876, Los Angeles CA 90009 before May 1, 1988.

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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Favorite Male Vocalists

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Favorite Female Vocalists

1. _____
2. _____

Favorite Guitarists

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Favorite Album from the past year

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Favorite Album of all time

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Favorite Bass Players

1. _____
2. _____

Favorite Drummers

1. _____
2. _____

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Contest Void Where Prohibited by Law

they tour. Nobody would touch Whitesnake!"--David), today, Coverdale and gang are the toast and darlings of the heavy metal hierarchy.

"We will never do that to other bands," the hunky rocker explains. "When we go out on the road, we take Motley, Ozzy, Billy Squier, ZZ Top, Meat Loaf, Twisted Sister. Especially in Europe, the kids pay a bloody fortune for the tickets and shouldn't have to sit through 45 minutes of dross."

Although his roots are in London, David admits he no longer spends that much time there. He finds the climate too insular and not particularly healthy. "There's never any kind of encouragement there--never any patting on the back. I have started to prefer Los Angeles."

Still engaged to the beautiful Tawny Kitaen (of *Bachelor Party* and Whitesnake videos fame), David does his best to keep his private life as private as possible.

"Just because I'm a big star in the eyes of the world now doesn't mean I have to hand it all over, if you know what I mean!" he laughs knowingly.

In fact, the only thing David has on his agenda he's willing to share with the world is his very immediate plans to begin recording the songs he and Whitesnake have been writing and demoing for months now. Like Bon Jovi, Motley and Poison, Whitesnake is under a considerable amount of pressure to record another multi-platinum-seller.

"I'm not actually worried about topping *Whitesnake*," the lanky frontman sums up. "For me, the only concern is writing good songs... and I'm not concerned at all. Recently, we've been going through material together, and I think we have enough for several hit albums. Of course, you never know how the public will react. At least, I never do. That's why you can only do your best and then just stand back and see what others think. You can only listen to your own heart... and hope."

photo by Ross Halfin/Photofeatures

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CONTEST

Win A Phone Call from BRET MICHAELS!

The phone rings—it's Poison's frontman, Bret Michaels, and it's for you! It could happen, but you've got to enter this exclusive BLAST! contest first!

You don't sell over two million copies of your debut LP (*Look What The Cat Dragged In*) if you don't have something to say, musically, that over two million people want to hear! Well, if you know Poison's Bret Michaels at all, you know he's got a whole lot to say, both musically and personally! And if you're the lucky winner of *BLAST!*'s Win A Phone Call From Bret Michaels Contest, you're going to be on the receiving end of everything brassy Bret's got on his mind! (And it's for your ears only--no other two million fans listening in here!).

"I like having fun--let's just leave it at that," Bret confesses about his rock 'n' roll lifestyle, but one of the best things about Bret is that he works as hard as he plays, and the band's upcoming second effort is set for a May release. Is Bret proud of Poison's latest LP? "This album is where the party *really* begins!" he promises!

And one lucky *BLAST!* reader is going to be invited to Bret's private party via the telephone wires! Bret can't wait to tell one of *BLAST!*'s readers all of the inside dope on the band's latest album--what it was like reuniting in the recording studio, what it was like to work with Tom Werman and Duane Barron--Motley Crue's production team--and what it was like to have a whole lot more than just 23,000 dollars to spend this time around!

If you'd like to be the one who receives a personal phone call from Poison's motor-mouthed party guy directly from the studio, send a postcard with your name, age, address, city, state, Zip code and phone number (including area code) to:

Win A Call From Bret Michaels
***BLAST!* Magazine**
P.O. Box 91876
Los Angeles, CA 90009

A member of the *BLAST!* staff will draw at random one winning postcard from among all entries received before the deadline on April 22, 1988. You may send in as many entries as you wish, but each entry must be on a postcard (no envelopes will be opened, unfortunately), and it's all-important that you remember to include your telephone number (including area code) so that you can be notified if you're chosen as the winner (and, more importantly, so that Bret can contact you!).

This is a once- in-a-lifetime opportunity to speak straight to Bret and ask him all of the questions you've always wanted to know about him and his Poison pals, so think about what you would say if you're the incredibly lucky winner, and who knows? You just might be!

Be sure to mail in your entry (or entries) before the deadline on April 22, 1988, and you could be chatting with Bret before you know it! Good luck to every *BLAST!*er!

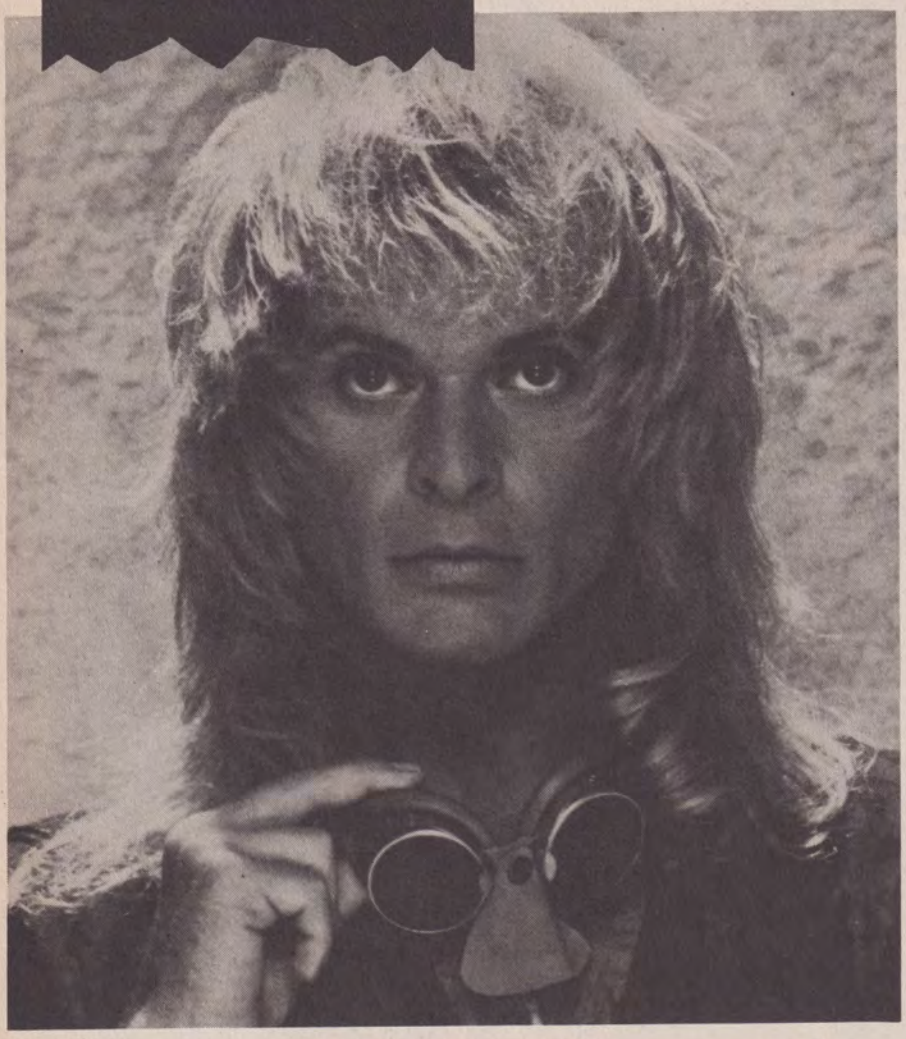
This contest is void where prohibited by law.

photo by Neil Zlozower

FEATURE

By Arlett Vereecke

DAVE ROTH



"In terms of pyro and laser beams, I like to keep it to a minimum, always have... it's just a matter of taste."

David Lee Roth is, at press time, rehearsing for his *Skyscraper* tour at Perkins Palace Theatre in his hometown of Pasadena, California.

Dave arrived on his bicycle right on time for *BLAST!*'s interview. His single, "Just Like Paradise," holds the No. 1 spot across America on radio play lists, and now that his album's been released, Diamond Dave is working around the clock making sure all of the requests for interviews and personal appearances on TV and radio are taken care of. Still no sign of exhaustion...

"Just Like Paradise," the live video clip, gave you an idea of what to expect on this tour, but seeing the stage set up--with the "California Girls" and *Eat 'Em And Smile* backdrops hanging in the back of the hall and on the roof of the stage, in that order, makes it look so much more exciting!

Dave doesn't want to reveal anything--only that his raps will be cut down to a minimum. He will still do some sexy, deep-throat talking when the intro of a song allows him to fill up the space, but besides that, he says, "Just one, two, three, rock 'n' roll- -one song after another!" Another left turn for David Lee Roth...

Motley Crue's Tommy Lee had a dream last year about a 360-degree-turning drum kit; Dave had a dream about a skateboard- -a *flying* one! As usual, Dave's live show is one not to be missed! "The live show's bigger and better and more Technicolor than ever before, and it's all designed to show off the individuals on the stage. As far as tonnage and weight, it's like I said--bigger than ever, but in terms of pyro and the laser beams, I like to keep it to a minimum... always have. It's just a matter of taste, but I would prefer to push the musicians to a better level of performance and a better level of musicianship on stage as opposed to the syndrome that will always set in after three months on the road of, 'Ah, s--t... I've got a cold, and I just had a fight with my girlfriend on the telephone, and I'm hungry, and I'll just kind of cruise through this and let the laser beams take up all of the slack.'"

"Slack" is not a word one would associate with David Lee Roth.

Just as on the *Eat 'Em And Smile* tour, Dave still will incorporate some old Van Halen tunes into his show. "Oh, big

The *SKYSCRAPER* Tour Is Vaudeville Incorporated in Rock Music—A Perfect Combination For a Successful Show.

salute to the past, you know," he laughs. "And we're including some songs off of *Crazy From The Heat* and *Eat 'Em And Smile*, most assuredly--because that is this band's identity--and most of the new album. Plus, there will be some room for improvisation here. What we have going now, in terms of the group and who's in it, is even more adjustable to improvising and expanding upon a given song, a given framework. You really have to practice and really drill and learn the basics--not so much so that you can improvise. Anybody can improvise. It's just so that you know what your home base looks like when you get back to it. How many times have bands started improvising and never quite got back to home base, and their audience is there going, 'Here we are, here we are!' and the band is up on a ledge somewhere going, 'Where are you?'!"

Meaning each band member is going to do extensive solos during the set?

"Well, Dave continues, "each member of the band will be able to certainly represent himself as much as on the last tour or before, but within the context of the band playing together. I start to get a little drained, no matter how great a musician is, after 10 minutes of a solo. It just grinds on, and there are only so many licks, so many things you could really do live on stage. In the studio, you can dial up more effects. Live, because of the nature of the P.A. system and because of the nature of the hall, etc., etc., it starts to grate on you after a while. So, if we can take that kind of performance value and put it in the context of a song or an improvisation, then I think the audience is going to have a much better time of it. That's a big consideration to me."

In 1986, when Dave was preparing for his *Eat 'Em And Smile* tour, rumors were flying around Los Angeles about Dave and his band doing club dates under an assumed name, but nothing materialized, and it looks as if it's not going to happen this time, either. Dave explains with his usual down-to-earth sense of reality, "I will always consider playing smaller clubs. The size of the audience changes the nature of the show a little bit, and I look forward to that. On the other hand, if you're set to play for 20,000 of your closest friends each night, and you're taking this parade across, say, the United States, and you decide to play in a little club that holds 400 people, you just paid for 120 roadies to have a free vacation somewhere in Peoria. So, you have to pick these with care, and it's a lot easier to play clubs in Europe, for instance, because you're not touring with a caravan that size-the halls aren't that big. The nature of touring is different. It's kind of odd that you start off playing clubs, hoping to play the big places; then you get to the big places, and you can't afford to play the clubs."

Even if you're not familiar with Dave's music, two things always stand out: the song titles and the lyrics, although nobody really seems to give him any credit for them. How many people can really write fun lyrics and still make sense? "A lot of times, people get as far as the hip shake and the haircut and a funny line in an interview, and they stop right there. They say, 'We don't need to go any further. We've seen what it looks like up here.' But there's a whole other 10,000 feet... you follow what I'm saying? If you want to read my lyrics as poetry, then I like to think that they hold up on a piece of paper... right down to the punctuation. If you read them, where the exclamation points come and where the dot, dot,

"If you want to read my lyrics as poetry, then I like to think that they hold up on a piece of paper, right down to the punctuations."

"You add up the Van Halen hits, the *Crazy From the Heat* material, the *Eat 'Em and Smile* and *Skyscraper* songs, and you have a real nice fat pizza kind of album, if we do it live."

dot... apostrophes come, that's part of it, too. A lot of times, I'm *not* just telling the standard story: 'I love you. Why don't you love me? I don't love you anymore. I'm leaving.' These are traditional stories. We're going to hell, and we're pumping thunder. Now, that's a feeling we can all relate to, although none of us has actually done it per se. You can say, 'What does it mean? It doesn't make any sense,' but it makes all of the sense in the world if you feel like that."

Dave is still an avid concert-goer--small clubs, big halls. Wherever there's music, chances are you'll find David Lee Roth. "I'm a fan," he admits. "I like to go and see music. I like live performances because I like to be entertained and swept away. I want to walk out of the building three feet off of the ground and buy a T-shirt! If that fails to occur to me, which it does at times, then I start researching. Then I'll start watching whatever's in front of me and thinking, 'Well that's not such a great thing to do. I'll have to avoid that. And, oh, I wouldn't have done that this way' and on and on. Then I'll start critiquing, but even at that point, I have a good time. I'm not one to walk out in the middle of the show, usually. All rock 'n' roll is like porno to me. The first seven minutes of anything is great--just great!"

Dave's career spans nearly 15 years, and the only thing he's never done is a live album. Sure, there are bootlegs, but you can't really count those as quality products. This time, however, there's space for it, he says.

"I'm definitely considering that for this season, for this year," he confides. "The band is playing so tight, and the music is free- ranging so far that this is a great time to put it on tape. Plus, this is a kind of plateau here--the cork is popping now! We have a real good history underneath us, and the sky is blue on top. You add up the Van Halen hits, the *Crazy From The Heat* material, the *Eat 'Em And Smile* and the *Skyscraper* material, and you have a real nice, fat pizza kind of album, if we do it live. I haven't felt that way until now, so now is the perfect time to do it. Also, this band can execute material like 'Just A Gigolo' with just as much intensity as the 'Bottom Line Boogie,' and that's hard to do. That's real hard to put together because a lot of times, you break into a brass-oriented tune like that and it wimps out. It sounds tired next to the kill-the-guy-with-the-ball heavy metal rock 'n' roll. But it's either material like that or, you know, your usual power-ballad, which is back to 'I love you. Why don't you love me?' or 'I love her, and what the hell do you mean you do, too?!' Hey... now, *there's* a song--there's a title!"

Another rumor flying around is the one about the European Monsters of Rock tour. Promoters supposedly offered Dave second place on the bill with Iron Maiden as headliners, since Dave hasn't toured in Europe since 1981 (with Van Halen), also as part of the Monsters of Rock package. Is opening or headlining an issue under the circumstances?

"It doesn't matter to me, but I would prefer to play a full set, but if it comes down to it... 'You want me to play a 35-minute set? Nothing but the hits, baby! Sign me up, and I'll have your groupies, too! You do your drum solo--I'll be backstage!'"

All nice and swell, but which band would want to go on after Dave? He's casual about it with his usual flair: "I have no idea. We're looking right now, and, of course, I'll open up for somebody. I've never opened for anybody in my life. I've played with everybody you can spell and some you can't, but I've never perceived of us as "opening" for somebody. I'm not an usher. I get along with everybody. It's not a competition to see who can win over the audience because I tend to think that nobody's really playing like Steve Vai does these days--nobody's really putting together songs and material the way we are. There are a lot of great bands out there; that's why we took Cinderella on the road. Maximum rock 'n' roll, but it bore very little resemblance to what we were doing, which was also maximum rock 'n' roll. It was from two different planets, and I would hope to find that combination for a European tour, for example.

"Conversely, it doesn't mean s--t to me. I'll play with anybody at any time, any place, and the band is designed to do that. The band is designed to set up in a little Holiday Inn barroom in Huntsville, Alabama, and this band also can be ordered in the full blast Madison Square Garden's model, or you can get it painted up for the Marquee as well as the Hammersmith-Odeon. You can order any color you want, baby!"

photo by Neil Zlozower

FEATURE

STRYPER: A New Album For the Metal Minstrels

When the big book on the history of rock 'n' roll is written, let's face facts: Stryper is going to be more than just another bunch of prancing spandex pants. Few bands have ever spoken as clearly or with as much conviction as these four Orange County, California metal minstrels. Still fewer have generated as much debate and controversy with their music, lyrics and aspirations. Stryper claims to be celebrating God and Jesus in their music. Instead of blasting the devil and other negative influences at us, Robert and Michael Sweet, along with Oz Fox and Tim Gaines, have aimed their ear-splitting noise at both the rock and Christian music markets... and hit a platinum bull's-eye.

With three albums (*The Yellow and Black Attack, Soldiers Under Command* and *To Hell With The Devil*) all turning gold and platinum as we speak, Stryper is more than exhilarated over the up 'n' coming release of *In God We Trust*, their fourth LP for Enigma and their first with a super-hitmaking producer, Michael Lloyd (*Dirty Dancing* and *Belinda Carlisle*).

"It was really a co-production deal," Robert Sweet explains, uh, sweetly. "It worked out real fine. It's been much different than our last experience. With *To Hell With The Devil*, we wanted to produce it ourselves because the man producing it wasn't doing much of a job. But the record company wanted someone who had a great track record and a big name. Well, Michael Lloyd has got about 85 gold albums on his living room wall."

How did Lloyd fit with

Stryper's spiritual values? Well, actually, the process of selecting a producer is often a dicey one for Stryper because so many of their choices won't even consider the job.

"They're afraid we'll preach to them or make them sit around and read the Bible with us," Robert huffs. "That's ridiculous. We're a rock 'n' roll band. What's important to us is to find someone who can get in there and do the project with us--someone who knows something about making records

With their brand new product ready for fans at last, Stryper couldn't be prouder of IN GOD WE TRUST.

and making rock music."

However, coincidentally or not (Stryper swears it's a coincidence!), only weeks after taking the job of producer, Lloyd decided to become a Christian.

"Yeah, it was great!" Robert laughs. "Right when we started working, he became a Christian. Honestly, it had nothing to do with us talking to him or trying to persuade him to do anything. It just happened... independent of us or our influence. I guess some events had happened in his life that got to him, and he just became a Christian. We didn't say one word, but one day, he came in and said, 'Yeah, I've become a Christian.' It was really kinda wild!"

Well, anyway, Christian or heathen, Michael Lloyd and Stryper have really put together some kind of album. With his strong pop background, Lloyd proved particularly helpful in shaping Stryper's ballads and more pop- sounding rock tunes.

"Yeah, he made sure we understood that he wasn't interested in making a Michael Lloyd album, but a Stryper album," Robert continues. "He told us it was our sound and our music, so we should just go for it... and we did. We never get into lyric-writing until we're in the studio anyway. And I tell you, that's the very hardest part."

With most of the lyric-writing falling into Robert's hands, the drummer insists that Stryper can't get away with writing the usual brain-damaged garbage about fast cars and fast girls.

"No, no," he sighs. "No way I can write lyrics about that. For Stryper, our songs really need to be about things we can work into double meanings. What I'm saying is that the song can either be about loving someone--a girl, whatever--or loving God. We're really always talking about loving God, but we go gently and allow more than one meaning to be put on it."

No, it isn't easy being Stryper. While they can't get away with the usual metal monstrosities, it does, however, help to lift them above the hordes to have an identity few ever thought could last more than an hour in rock 'n' roll.

"It's weird," the good-looking drummer concludes, "but people expect so much from us. We're human beings, too, you know? And what's so bad about feeling good anyway, huh?"

FOR COLLECTORS ONLY!

RECORD REVIEW, the God-father of **BLAST!**, was the home of many incredible feature interviews on metal artists. Some issues of RECORD REVIEW are still available! So, if interviews with EDDIE VAN HALEN, DAVID LEE ROTH, IRON MAIDEN, SCORPIONS, DEF LEPPARD, OZZY OSBOURNE, THIN LIZZY, JUDAS PRIEST, BILLY SHEEHAN, MOTLEY CRUE, ANGUS YOUNG, BLACK SABBATH, RITCHIE BLACKMORE, JEFF BECK, RUSH, MOTORHEAD and DIO interest you, check out the back issues listing below.

#46 AUG '84
Heavy Metal Special. Interviews with Tony Iommi/Blk Sab, M. Schenker, the Scorpions, first major interview with Accept

#45 APR '84
Motley Crue's first U.S. cover, B Sheehan/Talas, Blue Oyster Cult, Heaven, Sound Barrier interviews

#44 FEB '84
AC/DC (Angus Young), Fast Eddie Clarke of Fast Way, Quiet Riot, Motorhead

#43 DEC '83
Def Leppard Special. Interviews with Y&T (Dave Meniketti, Eddie Jobson, Supertramp, Inxs.

#42 OCT '83
Eddie Van Halen cover article, Lita Ford, Traffic, Girlschool

#41 AUGUST '83
Iron Maiden (Steve Harris) and Ronnie Dio first U.S. cover stories, King Crimson

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"IF IT ISN'T FUN IT ISN'T INXS!"
JAZZ VIOLINIST JOE VENUTI'S PLAYING WAS NO JOKE

#40 JUNE '83
Ozzy Osbourne feature. Golden Earring interview, history of Free.

#39 APRIL '83
Journey, Def Leppard, Diamond Head, Tygers of Pan Tang interviews, Deep Purple tribute.

#38 FEB '83
Rush cover (Alex Lifeson). Steven Tyler/Aerosmith

#37 DEC '82
big Scorpions interview (Rudolf Schenker), John Cougar Mellencamp, B. Squier interviews. Who tribute Part II.

#36 OCT '82
Who cover & tribute part I, "Greatest article on Motorhead ever"-Phil Taylor, interview with Lemmy.

#35 AUG '82
Eddie Van Halen cover and interview, Rainbow interview, Japan's metal scene uncovered.

#34 JUNE '82
Led Zeppelin tribute part II, Frank Zappa, Neal Schon interviews.

#33 APRIL '82
Ozzy Osbourne cover and feature interview, Led Zeppelin Part I, Earl Slick, Ray Davies interviews.

#32 FEB '82
Black Sabbath (Tony Iommi) interview, Ronnie James Dio, Yes (Jon Anderson), King Crimson (Robert Fripp), Bill Nelson

#31 DEC '81
first Iron Maiden feature interview, UFO (Phil Mogg), John Entwhistle of the Who interviewed.

#30 OCT '81
Ozzy Osbourne discusses Randy Rhoads, ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons and C. Santana interviews.

#29 AUG '81
Rush (Lifeson) feature interview, Loverboy, April Wine, Emerson Lake & Palmer

#28 JUNE '81
Angus Young (AC/DC), UFO (M. Schenker), Steve Winwood interviews.

#27 APRIL '81
REO, Police, Roy Buchanan feature interviews.

#26 FEB '81
History of Heavy Metal Special, Journey and Larry Carlton interviews.

#25 DEC '80
Pat Benatar cover and interview, Van Halen's producer Ted Templeman and Al Dimeola interviews.

#24 OCT '80
Jimi Hendrix cover & feature, Scorpions, Judas Priest interviews.

#23 AUG '80
David Lee Roth/ Van Halen interview, Genesis, Robin Trower & Angel City interviews.

#22 JUNE '80
Eddie Van Halen/ David Lee Roth Cover/Interviews, Geddy Lee/Rush, Heart interviews.

#21 APR '80
Todd Rundgren, Police, Rory Gallagher, Iggy Pop interviews.

#20 FEB '80
Frank Zappa, Robert Fripp, Bill Bruford, Phil Collins (Brand X period) interviews King Crimson tribute.

#19 DEC '79
Who Special. Interviews with Pete Townshend, Keith Moon, Sammy Hagar & Ry Cooder. Retro on Spooky Tooth

#18 OCT '79
Interviews: Thin Lizzy, T. Nugent, Journey, Mick Taylor, Lee Ritenour, Stanley Clarke, Rick Ocasek. Mott the Hoople tribute.

#17 AUG '79
Ian Hunter, Phil Manzanera (Roxy Music), Police, Tom Petty interviews, Beatles tribute Part II.

#16 JUNE '79
Interviews with Cheap Trick, Robert Fripp, Beatles tribute Part I.

#15 APRIL '79
first-ever Van Halen Cover- interview with Eddie, UK (E. Jobson), Bob Welch, Frank Zappa.

#14 FEB '79
Interviews with Styx, Heart, and the Who's John Entwhistle.

#13 DEC '78
Kiss Cover— Ace Frehley, Paul Stanley, Gene Simmons interviews plus Cars, Blondie, Robin Trower. Tribute to Procol Harum.

#12 OCT '78
Stones Special. Interviews with Thin Lizzy, John Paul Jones of Led Zeppelin, Cheap Trick.

#11 AUG '78
Ritchie Blackmore interview, Jethro Tull, Steve Hackett, Paul McCartney, ARS.

#10 JUNE '78
Frank Zappa cover (w/Hendrix' burned guitar from Atlanta Pop Festival), Doors, Journey, Ted Nugent, Outlaws.

#9 APRIL '78
Classic Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute. Features on Eric Clapton, Alice Cooper, Genesis, ELP, Queen, Santana and Aerosmith.

#8 DEC '77
Rolling Stones complete history, Robin Trower, Be Bop Deluxe, Cheap Trick

#7 OCT '77
Colosseum with Gary Moore, UFO, Ted Nugent R. Blackmore, Rick Derringer, Kiss, Yes.

#6 AUG '77
Beatles Cover. Allman Bros, Outlaws, John McLaughlin, Jack Bruce, Buchanan, Detective, Peter Frampton, Supertramp, Steve Miller, Traffic.

#5 JUNE '77
Emerson Lake & Palmer, Bad Company, Pink Floyd, ZZ Top, Johnny Winter.

#4 APR '77
Jeff Beck, Queen, Paul McCartney, Santana, Cream tribute.

#3 FEB '77
First Issue. Thin Lizzy, ELO, Led Zeppelin, Byrds.

#2 JAN '76
Trial Issue (28 pages) includes Jeff Beck interview re: *Blow By Blow*.

#1 SEP '72
First Trial Issue (4 pages) Dr. John, Jimmy Spheeris, John Stewart.

How can I?

Get a recording contract? Write my favorite star? Write articles for BLAST!?

Q: I'm in a heavy metal band in Los Angeles, and we've been together for over a year now. Currently, we're searching for a new lead singer--someone who would fit our style. Our music is pretty melodic, but it's also very powerful. We can't seem to find the right singer in our area, and I'm wondering if you could offer some suggestions.
Kyle Sampson
Los Angeles, CA
A: If you can't find the right person in your area, check outside of your area! You can run ads in the bigger newspapers in other major cities (New York, Chicago, San Francisco, etc.) or in the classified section of some of the music publications (often these ads are placed free of charge). You'll be surprised by how many musicians are willing to relocate to be in a band. Once you have a few prospective singers, hold your auditions to make sure the person you choose ultimately shares the same feeling toward metal your band has. Most of the top bands will agree that it's just as important to be socially compatible within a band as it is to be musically compatible.

Q: I'm interested in writing to my favorite group, Europe, and I'd like to get my hands on as much information about them as I can. How do I go about this? Thanks!
Ginny Baines
Plymouth, MN
A: Firstly, the address on the back of Europe's albums is the place to try sending your letters. Most record companies are very interested in seeing the kind of response artists on their label draw from fans. Most big-name bands which have fan clubs or merchandising departments usually advertise these on the inner sleeve of their records. If there's a fan club address listed, this is your best bet. If not, still drop a line to the guys in care of their label, and while you may not receive a personal reply from the band members, it's possible you may receive some kind of information sheet from the record company regarding any fan club materials. And don't forget: For all of the special addresses you need to contact your favorite bands, check out *BLAST!*'s Ultimate Star Address Book, advertised in this issue!

Q: I was wondering why rock magazines don't have any articles about concerts. I mean, just short reviews to let you know if the bands are worth seeing would be very helpful. I don't mean they should say whom to see or not to see, because that should be left up to the fans entirely... just something that will tell you briefly about the concerts that will be coming to various towns.

Also, I wanted to know how a person could get started writing something like concert reviews for a magazine like *BLAST!* I love to write articles, especially when they're about music, and I'd really like to do something like that. I'd appreciate any information you could give me. Thanks!
Danielle Lakatos
Brandon, FL
A: Magazines like *BLAST!* have very early deadlines, so by the time a concert review would make it to print, it would be old news. Also, we've found that our readers are much more interested in reading more personal things about performers rather than how they performed in person (and most of our readers are avid concert-goers anyway). We try to let our great photos tell the story about concert performances (by the way, have you seen our series of poster specials, *BLAST! Live Metal Posters?*)

If you're interested in writing concert reviews, I suggest you contact your local town newspaper and see if you could interest them in having you cover various events. These reviews could be printed almost immediately and would be far more interesting to the readers.

Here's your chance to find out everything you need to know about how to succeed in Heavy Metal. Instead of just dreaming, write BLAST! BASICS, P.O. Box 91876, Los Angeles CA 90009. Your answer will be printed in this column in an upcoming issue, space permitting.

Fronting a Metal Band? Want to be a Lead Singer? Got the Tubes to Make It Happen?

If you really want to make it big and have a fabulous singing career...don't wait...send away today for **Singing For the Stars**, a complete program for training the voice by Seth Riggs.

This is a combination book and accompanying cassette tapes that will teach you (in the privacy of your own home) the same singing techniques that have made stars of Motley Crue's Vince Neil and Poison's Bret Michaels. You will learn to sing with a strong, clear, and flexible voice over a range that you never dreamed possible. No matter what style of music you sing...pop, rock, gospel, opera, or Heavy Metal, Seth Riggs' method of voice training is the proven one.

Seth Riggs is considered by many to be the best and most successful voice teacher in the United States. He has worked successfully with hundreds of singers, actors and dancers in all areas of musical performance. The secret to his success is a technique called speech-level singing, which allows you to sing with the same comfortable, easily produced voice you use, or should use, when you speak. No matter if you sing high or low, loud or soft, nothing feels different in your throat or mouth. Your tone and the words you sing always feel natural to you, and sound natural to your audience.

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FEATURE

By Arlett Vereecke

L.A. GUNS ROCKIN' THE CHARTS!

Los Angeles seems to have the right prescription for rock bands. The new load is better than ever before. Headed by Guns N' Roses and Faster Pussycat, now it's the big time

"Besides playing with Guns N' Roses, I also played with Don Costa. That gig was a lot more sober!

for LA Guns. The band, headed by former Guns N' Roses guitarist Tracii Guns, obviously caught everybody's attention just by association with the world's baddest boys--Guns N' Roses.

The members of LA Guns are still living on a very tight budget--something their lead singer describes as 35 dollars. You either have lunch or you go to a club at night, but you can't afford both in one day!

Tracii Guns started playing the guitar at the ripe old age of four and hasn't looked back since. Down the line, he hooked up with Guns N' Roses lead singer W. Axl Rose, and after forming LA Guns, they changed the name of the band to Guns N' Roses when they attracted new members from Hollywood Rose. Although Tracii says there were no real problems with any of the band members whatsoever, he made the choice to leave.

"Besides being in Guns N' Roses," he says, "I was also playing with Don Costa, who used to play bass for Ozzy Osbourne. It was more of a straight-ahead rock 'n' roll type of music, and it was a lot more sober!" he laughs. "At the time, I was only 17 or 18 years old, and I didn't really care about booze too much. I just wanted to play. I loved being in the band, but it was crazy ALL of the time! The main thing was me and Axl wanting the same thing, but we had our own ideas. We never argued, but it was just a better idea if I did my own thing and he did his. And now, instead of having 12 great songs, you'll get 20, because, basically, they all came from the same place."

After Tracii left, he didn't do anything for a while. About two years ago, he reformed LA Guns, but only rhythm guitarist Mick and Tracii are left from that period, so, back to the drawing board!

Bass player Kelly, formerly of Faster Pussycat, had his world fall apart after a motorcycle accident kept him hospitalized for more than four months, forcing Faster to replace him in order to record their album. When released from the hospital, Kelly flew back to New York, "miserable and depressed," as he describes his state of mind. Then Tracii asked him to fly back to L.A. to join his band. Lead singer Phil Lewis, former lead singer of the British band Girl (also featuring Phil Collen of Def Leppard) got a call from LA Guns' manager, Alan Jones, who knew of Lewis and asked him on behalf of Tracii to come to L.A. to join his band.

Tracii relates: "Izzy Stradlin (of Guns N' Roses) and I used to listen to Girl all of the time, and I figured he would be the best singer for our band. He and Axl are just about the best singers around, and I worked with both of them."

"I was sick to death of the music scene in London," Phil admits. "After the band broke up, I did a wide assortment of things. I went to Beirut and took pictures. I sold old cars for a while, and I worked a little bit on music, but nothing serious--more as a hobby. I just wanted to go around the world and do different things but not be tied down to any particular job. Musically, I wasn't interested in doing anything unless it was something exciting, and the minute they called me, I just knew this was it!"

To sort of facilitate getting to know each other, LA Guns learned some of Girl's songs, so, when Phil made it on down to L.A. on April Fool's Day, 1987 (it could have been a very bad joke, of course!), Phil could just step into rehearsal without going through too much pain of putting songs together right there. "Hollywood Tease," one of the songs released previously by Girl, ended up on the LA Guns album. "I always loved the song," Tracii says, "and I always wished it was mine, so now, it kind of is... "

At a time when certain rock bands are having difficulty getting MTV to air their videos, LA Guns made a "splatter" video for "One More Reason," which will never be shown on television, so why spend the money on it? "They were gonna use it," Tracii defends about his video, "but right around the time they were gonna release it, some kid killed his mother because of some violent video he saw. Actually, we made the video before we did the album. We did that from the demo tape soundtrack." Their official video is called "Talking About Love," but don't look for that title on the album; again, it was changed because of MTV. On the album, the track is called "Sex Action."

At press time, LA Guns were holding the No. 135 spot on the charts--not bad for the LP's second week of release.

Currently, the band is on a club-date tour across America and was invited by Alice Cooper to join him on his European tour, but they feel it's better to break ground in their home territory first, rather than try to conquer Europe.

"The album is hot here, so, we're gonna concentrate on this market for now," Tracii states. At the end of this month, they'll be out with guitar slinger Ted Nugent, doing medium-sized halls.

LA Guns-- another L.A. band not to be missed!

FEATURE

By Arlett Vereecke

FASTER PUSSYCAT

Road-Broke PUSSYs Are Preparing A

Faster Pussycat is temporarily off the road and back in the rehearsal studio. The cold weather in Los Angeles has gotten the better of lead singer Taime Downe, who's sniffling and coughing through the whole set.

The Pussys are rehearsing new songs for their next album, which, hopefully, will be released this summer if all goes as planned. And to make sure their fans don't lose interest, "Babylon" will be released as their next single. This time, no expensive video will coincide with the release.

"Then again, maybe we *will* do a video, if the single does really well," Taime says. "MTV ain't playing s--t! They play us once on Saturday nights, and that's about it. So, we figure, why spend all of our money on something they play once a week? If the single takes off, MTV will be forced to play it."

Recently, the Pussys were advertised as part of a benefit at the Whiskey club in Hollywood with other celebrities (such as Vince Neil, Guns N' Roses and many more) without being asked to play the gig! They still showed up, played a superb set of six songs and came out smelling like a rose. They played one of their new songs, "Slip Of The Tongue," which will be on their next album.

The upcoming LP, Taime promises, definitely will have a much heavier guitar sound on it. "We wanted a heavier guitar sound on this album because of the way we play live. We're a lot heavier live than we sound on the album. I love the album, but we're just... louder!"

After rehearsal, this interview continued back at Taime's house in Hollywood, where there were still traces of a Christmas tree! Taime and his roommate, Rikki Rachtman (co-owner of the Cathouse nightclub), couldn't come to terms with the idea of removing the tree. "It was hard to part with it," Taime laughs. "It was draped with all of the lingerie and sex toys we accumulated on tour, a bottle of Jack Daniels as the star on top and lots of different-flavored condoms. It was a typical Rikki/ Taime tree."

The Metal Year, a full-length film due out this summer, will feature Faster Pussycat performing live at The Cathouse. Although the songs were recorded live, Taime went and remixed some vocals and bass tracks with producer Rick Browde. Rick, who produced both Poison's and Faster Pussycat's albums, is still on good terms with the Pussys but severed his relationship with Poison.

This hasn't affected the friendship between the two bands, however. Taime and Poison's Bret Michaels plan to do a photo session together in the near future since, Taime confides, "We're real good friends, and we're both off the road, so it's something to do, and it's nice for our fans, too."

Faster Pussycat is shopping for a different producer for their next album, and, like every band, they have a few favorites in mind. But, Taime says, "I don't want to mention any names 'cause I'll get jinxed, and we won't be able to get the one we want. There are a couple of them who are really good. We went with Rick for our first album, and that was planned way before anything else was planned out.

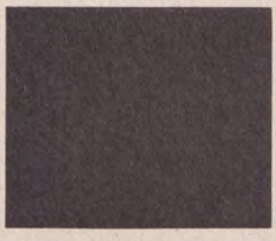
"Working with Rick was fine--we have nothing against him. We just would like to try something a little bit different for the next album. We basically know what we want, so, whomever we go with as a producer will have to go along with what we have in mind."

Having been on their first major road tour, the Pussys

Second Album.

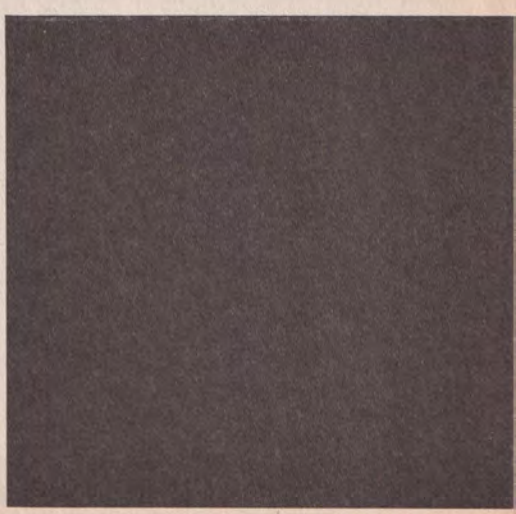
definitely are road-broken. Taime recalls a few incidents from the road: "When we were touring in Canada, the last six days we did up in the Northwest, we rented a couple of Lincolns instead of a tour bus and stayed in hotels overnight instead of sleeping on the bus. There was this long drive from Vancouver to Spokane on the freeway, and we were videotaping all of these guys putting snow tires on their cars. We were laughing and drinking and fooling around with girls, saying, 'We don't need snow tires!' And right when we said it, we went into a 360- degree turn in the middle of the freeway in the snow!

"The camera was, like, on the dashboard, and all you heard was screaming and yelling! On the tape, you see the camera coming back up and cars coming towards us. It was funny as hell because we were, like, in the middle of the snow, driving down the wrong side, going backwards down the freeway. It was pretty scary but so funny because it happened right after we got done making fun of these people putting on snow tires. In Vancouver, Mark's antics took over again--he fell against a sliding-glass door and nearly fell off the 20th floor! Needless to say, we had to pay for the glass door, plus an extra 75 dollars to the cleaning crew to clean the patios of the 19 floors below us because there was glass everywhere!"



"Getting a drivers license and a rich girl is the next thing on my list of priorities."

Taime took his written driver's test before he went on the road but not his actual road test, and he was busted recently and fined 256 dollars for driving, and that kind of money is not exactly floating around the Pussycat camp. "Getting a driver's license and a rich girl are the next things on my list of priorities," he laughs. "I'm looking for a girl who can take care of me once in a while. So, everybody can send gifts to our mailing address... expensive ones."



PEN PALS

Find the friend you've always wanted. Search this section and write to the pen pal of your choice. In order to insure that you receive an answer, why not send a self-addressed envelope? In that way you can be sure you'll get an answer.

AND, if you'd like to be listed in a future pen pal column, then send in the coupon below to: BLAST! PEN PALS, P.O. Box 91876, Los Angeles CA 90009. Also, enclose a photo if you wish (black and white photos will print better), and there's a chance we'll run it.

BLAST! cannot guarantee space for all who send coupons and cannot be responsible for letters you receive after you have been listed.

"If you don't like Poison, don't bother writing to me! Be nice, and don't be stuck on yourself. Be open to mingle!"
Scott Hartshorne (16)
2503 Rickert Rd.
Perkasie, PA 18944

"I want pen pals who love to party hard! No posers allowed! Males or females, ages 16- 25. I love Motley Crue!"
Brigette Utesch (20)
4481 Canyon Trail, No. 1
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

"Attention, females! I'm a professional photographer, so send me your picture, and for my eyes only! Love Metallica."
Ed Watkins (21)
1426 W. 9th
Anderson, IN 46011

"I would like to hear from guys, 30-39, and send a photo. I have too many hobbies to list. I love the original Monkees!"
Rhonda Cook (30)
12832 N. 22nd St.
Phoenix, AZ 85922

"Guys who wear tight jeans and have muscles, write to me! I like AC/ DC, Prince, Cinderella and the Crue."
Rochelle Wimberly (15)
R.R. 1, Box 67
Burns, KS 66840

"I collect photos. Females only, send me your private pictures! I love all true heavy metal bands."
Kiel Winters (20)
1426 W. 9th St.
Anderson, IN 46011

"I want letters from girls who like guys in makeup! I like New York Dolls, Faster Pussycat and Whitesnake."
Matthew Brown (23)
4054 Barclay Lane
Saugerties, NY 12477

"You must be good-looking, 15-19 and like Motley Crue, Poison and Cinderella. My hobby: women."
Keith Simpkins (15)
Rt. 6, Box 300-B
Christianburg, VA 24073

"I collect Jon Bon Jovi posters, and I think Jon is the greatest singer! I also like Poison and Motley Crue."
Richard Baker (16)
721 Cherry St.
Riverton, WY 82507

"I want to hear from anyone who has long hair, a fine body and a great personality. I like Bon Jovi and Poison."
Sara Whittaker (16)
1309 Summerton
Yukon, OK 73099

"You have to be a diehard Motley Crue fan and interested in forming a band to be my pen pal. I play the drums."
Chad Lesmeister (14)
Box 81
Reeder, ND 58649

"I like bar-hopping, the fast lane and rollerskating. My favorites include David Lee Roth and Bon Jovi. Please include a photo in your first letter."
Don Gibson (30)
P.O. Box 34550
Memphis Univ.
Memphis, TN 38184-0550

Hobbies: dancing and collecting Bon Jovi posters. Favorite stars: Bon Jovi, Stryper, Whitesnake and the Crue.
Kathy Brown (18)
314 E. Hotchin St.
White Pigeon, MI 49099

Continued on Page 54

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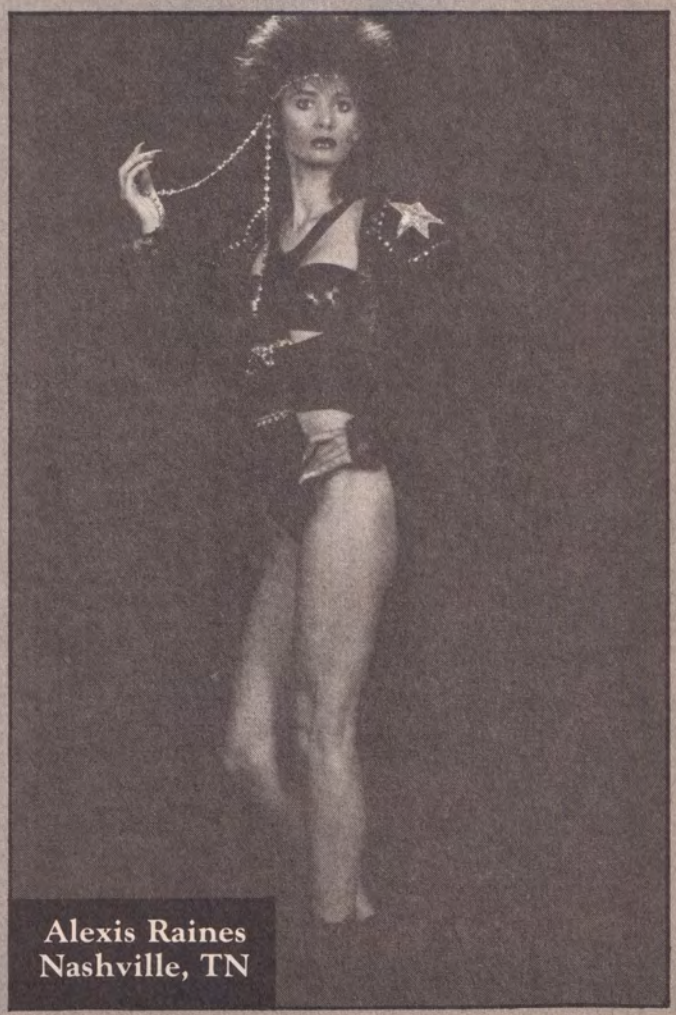

Alexis Raines
Nashville, TN

Continued from Page 52

"If you're recovering from a hangover, write to me! I like long-haired guys who play the guitar."
Celinda Brindley (15)
1818 Wyoming Ave.
San Angelo, TX 76904

"Whitesnake, Bon Jovi, Poison and Motley Crue are my favorites. I like to play volleyball and swim."
Kim Greve (13)
305 N. 16th St.
Ashland, NE 68003

"Males only, preferably with long hair, and you must love to party! I play the bass guitar and love to party!"
Nikki Rhea (16)
Rt. 6, Box 300-D
Shawnee, OK 74801

"Motley Crue, Poison and Kiss are my favorites. I want to hear from anyone who likes the old Kiss."
Bobby Davis (14)
137 W. Mission
Kellogg, ID 83837

"You must love to get into trouble, party and be between 12-16. I like Ratt, Motley Crue, Van Halen and Bon Jovi."
Trista Chalupa (13)
674 Iroquois Trail
Carol Stream, IL 60188

"My motto is, 'Support Wildlife: Throw A Party!' I love guys with long hair, and I love Bon Jovi, Poison and Whitesnake, among others."
Dee Ramsey (16)
P.O. Box 164
Wetumka, OK 74883

"Girls who like their men in tight, black leather, write to me. I like cruisin', Bon Jovi and parties."
Jeff Kuhnert (30)
775 19th St. SW
Vero Beach, FL 32962

Gorgeous guys who like to flirt, send me your picture. I like to flirt, too. You must love Poison!"
Kristi Dillon (14)
514 NW 21st St.
Guymon, OK 73942

"Guys only, 17-19, who like to party and go to concerts. I only like Quiet Riot. Will answer all who write."
Heather Bartashus (17)
18 Edgewood Dr.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

"I want male flesh! Know how to party, too! I like Tesla, W.A.S.P., Whitesnake and Def Leppard!"
Jennifer Tubbs (15)
74 Batavia
River Rouge, MI 48218

"I want to hear from good-looking guys who like to party and who are really into Poison and the Crue."
Becky Johnson (15)
171 Rineyville-Big Springs Rd.
Radcliff, KY 40160

"I need to hear from Jon Bon Jovi fans! I love Jon! I collect everything on him and his band!"
Pam McLaughlin (23)
RFD No. 3, Box 485-G
Gorham, ME 04038

"You must be a serious heavy metal person. I love Twisted Sister and Kiss. You'll receive a quick reply from me!"
Esther Gassen (18)
Rt. 1, Box 400
Heidelberg, MS 39439

"My favorite pastime is watching guys at the mall. I like Poison, Europe and Whitesnake. Please send a photo."
Sally Escalante (14)
9060 Cuernavaca
El Paso, TX 79907

"If you're a fine guy, write me kinky letters to your heart's content! My hobby: men! I'll answer all!"
Jodi Landers (16)
1011 S. 10th Ave.
Yuma, AZ 85364

"My nickname is the Wild Child. You must love to party and be over 18. I want both girl and guy pen pals."
Angel Moreno (18)
1193 N. 5th St.
Raymondville, TX 78580

"I'm a groupie and proud of it! If you'd like to hear about my experiences (and there have been many!), write to me. I've been with the rich and famous!"
Brandy Wine (20)
431 W. 58th St.
New York, NY 10019

"You have to think the guys from Bon Jovi are the cutest guys in the world if you want me for a pen pal."
Tracy Hunt (16)
4901 Aztec, No. 50
Columbia, MO 65202

Requests future pen pals to be 14-19 and heavy metal lovers. This doll likes Poison, Europe, Whitesnake and many others.
Julie Rivera (15)
P.O. Box 2026
Espanola, NM 87532

"Talk dirty to me, please! I want to hear from people who love to party! I like the Crue, Ratt and Def Leppard."
Lisa Gwin (15)
702 E. Park
Henrietta, TX 76365

"If any guy wants a 5'3" golden blonde, write to me! Females are welcome, too. I love MTV!"
Denise Rea (13)
6319 Irving Ave.
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

"Warning: I'm beautiful! Guys who are sexy, write to me! My hobbies are anything that's dangerous, sexy and wild!"
Jeanette Brown (16)
250 W. 700 North, No. 34-1
Blanding, UT 84511

"I love Bon Jovi, especially Richie Sambora! I like to just hang out and listen to music."
Kristeen McCormick (14)
35 Gingham Lane
Levitown, NY 11756

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TRIVIA

DEF LEPPARD Pop Quiz!

1. Which British industrial city claims the Leps as hometown boys?
A. Sheffield
B. Birmingham
C. Kent

2. Name the band's impressive 1979 EP.

3. On which label was this EP released?

4. Name the Leps' first full-length album.

5. What do the Leps mean when they say their music is "A.O.R."?

6. Which Led Zeppelin classic did Rick Allen play for the Leps that proved he'd lost none of his drumming skills when he lost his left arm?

7. Name all five band members.

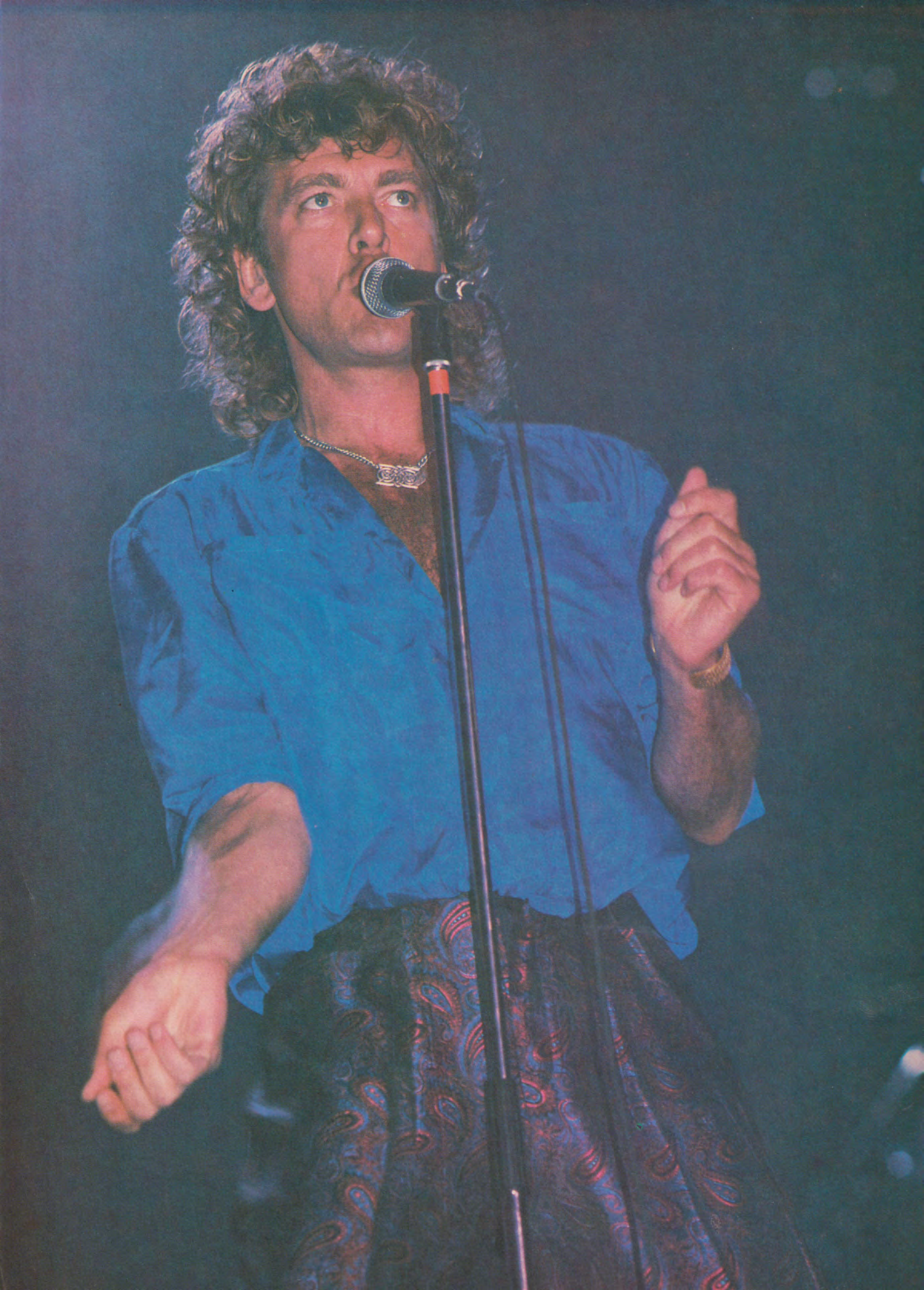
8. Rick Savage and Joe Elliott are avid fans of which sport?
A. Tennis
B. Rugby
C. Golf

9. In which European city did "Sav" and Joe share an apartment while recording?
A. Grenoble, France
B. Amsterdam, Holland
C. Innsbruck, Austria

10. How many minutes of music are on the Leps' comeback LP, *Hysteria*?
A. 63
B. 57
C. 44

ANSWERS:

1. A
2. *Getcha Rocks Off*
3. Bludgeon Riffola
4. *On Through The Night*
5. "Arson-oriented rock"!
6. "When The Levee Breaks"
7. Rick Allen, Steve Clark, Phil Collen, Joe Elliott, Rick Savage
8. C
9. B
10. A



By 'Ligger' Malcolm Dome

Comments from the Pub

The traffic's gettin' really heavy (man) around these parts right now. Everybody and his band seems to be on the road: **HEART, AC/ DC, KISS, VENOM, SAXON, DEF LEPPARD, RUSH**... even **JUDAS PRIEST** are preparing for a quick visitation.

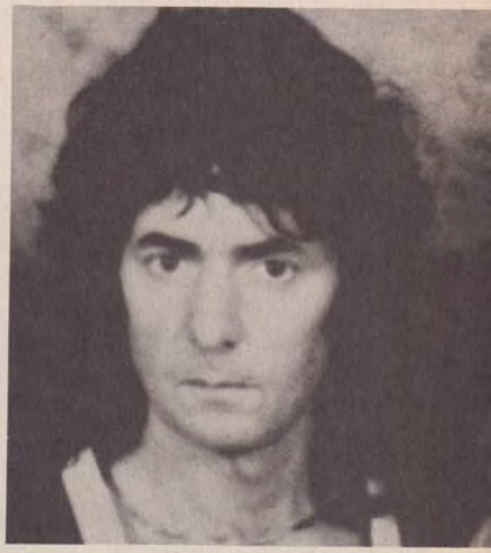
Yeah, the kings of British steel are apparently gonna hit the road once more during early May and intend to undertake their first U.K. tour in some five-and-a-half years during June, supported by Cinderella. The band are currently finishing off recording work on their latest studio album, *Ram It Down*, somewhere in the depths of Denmark with producer **TOM ALLOM**, and by all accounts, the guitar synths that ruined *Turbo* (at least, for me) have been ditched, and it's right back to SCREAMING METAL! Hooray!

Also scuppered are plans to record a cover version of an old **STYLISTICS** song, but the boys have done a rendering of that ol' chestnut, "Johnny B. Goode," for the soundtrack of a new movie. In fact, they recently completed work on a video for the track in Amsterdam. The band rented the Roxy club and put out circulars around the city proclaiming that they wanted as many fans as possible to show up. So, you'd have expected queues right around the block for this one... except that hardly

Judas Priest

anyone believed that the real **JUDAS PRIEST** was gonna turn up (what did they expect? The **JUDAS PRIEST** from Sri Lanka?), and only about 150 fans came down for the shoot. Pity, 'cause the group also did a short set!

Speaking of sets, **ROBERT PLANT** (remember him?)--he of the pout, the hair and the voice--has been doing a whole series of low-key club dates to warm up his band and his material for the forthcoming world tour. And guess what? Yeah, **ZEPPELIN** songs are back in the groove. When he played to a jam-packed Marqee audience in London, we got "Trampled Underfoot," "Misty Mountain Hop," a short extract from "Heartbreaker" as well as



Ritchie Blackmore

a sensational cover of **THE DOORS**' masterpiece, "Break On Through." Great stuff. The gig was filled with personalities, including **DEEP PURPLE's IAN GILLAN** and former **PINK FLOYD** man **ROGER WATERS**. Funny thing--tickets were so scarce on the ground that when Virgin Records rang **PLANT**'s management office asking for tickets to get both **GILLAN** and **DP's ROGER GLOVER** into the show (the pair has just done an album for said label... but we'll forget about that 'cause it's dreadful), they were told no tickets were available, to which the record company spokesman replied that refusing to allow the **PURPLE** men into the venue could constitute the start of a war between **PLANTIE** and **PURPLIE**... how silly can you

photo by Neil Zlozower

get?!

PURPLE, themselves, are now mixing down the tracks for their forthcoming double-live album in the South of England, and by all accounts, it's a cracker. There will also be two new studio cuts on the record, so watch the skies for more info.

In the meantime, former **PURPLE** frontman **DAVID COVERDALE** has, of course, now left Europe after his hugely successful U.K. tour with **WHITESNAKE**, but not before upsetting most major promoters on the European continent by refusing to play shows there. As has been well-documented, **WHITESNAKE** cancelled their scheduled Euro-trek because **COVERDALE** had a viral problem, leaving fans and business people alike furious. In fact, so desperate did the situation become that one Swiss promoter actually flew to Edinburgh in a desperate attempt to persuade **COVERDALE** to change his mind... no luck. Still, one can't help but wonder if the great man, himself, now cares. Success sometimes can breed indifference.

Speaking of cancelled tours, **MOTLEY CRUE** has been vilified by the press over here for their last-second cancellation of their proposed visit-- something that's needled a lot of folks. Yet, despite the huge negativity towards the **MOTLEY** boys in print, they scored recently their biggest hit single yet in the U.K. with "You're All I Need." This reached No. 23 on the charts and probably would have gone higher had they been touring! So, will the repercussions of the non-visit really damage the **MOTLEY** reputation and support? I doubt it.

Motley Crue

KISS is planning to come over here during May/ June, but in the meantime, **GENE SIMMONS** seems to be expressing an interest in producing one **LISA DOMINIQUE**, a female vocalist renowned for the fact that her pictures appear everywhere, yet she cannot sing a note! Wonder what ol' mega-tongue is thinking of?!

Tony Iommi

SAXON, once-proud rockers and now reduced to the status of has-beens, has just put out a new album on the EMI label. Big deal, huh? They've even done a cover version of an old **CHRISTOPHER CROSS** number! Just about the only good thing going for **SAXON** these days is their new hotshot drummer, **NIGEL DURHAM**, who is so exciting that,

doubtless, he'll be snapped up by another, more impressive outfit very shortly anyway. **SAXON** has become renowned as the wig 'n' false teeth brigade, and lead vocalist **BIFF** even has two pairs of false teeth: one for singing and one for eating!

BLACK SABBATH has now switched management once more--this time, going with a company called Rockmasters. But they've yet to reschedule their U.K. date, cancelled at the end of December for a variety of possible reasons (according to whom you talk). There's the "**TONY IOMMI** has tennis elbow" excuse, the "**TONY IOMMI** has a strange strain of flu" excuse, the "All of our equipment has been impounded for non-payment of bills" excuse, etc., etc. In fact, just to show how embarrassing everything is getting on the **SABBS** front, when one intrepid journalist rang keyboardsman **GEOFF NICHOLLS** to find out the proper reason for this cancellation, he discovered that **NICHOLLS** didn't even know his own management's phone number! Way to go, **GEOFFO**!

● **Whitesnake**

THE SCORPIONS have been busy in London finishing off the mixes for their latest album, *Savage Amusement*. They've brought in top engineer **NIGEL GREEN** to do the job. And **MAGNUM** (much vaunted here) has just completed work on their new album, *On The Wings of Heaven*, which is a mega-sensation. Watch out for it on Polygram in the States. Meantime, word has it that latest L.A. tip, **KINGDOM COME**, will be supporting **MAGNUM** on their upcoming European tour. And if you've already heard **KINGDOM COME**, then you know just how good **LED ZEPPELIN II** really is. Which brings me back to **ROBERT PLANT** and one final question: Why did **JIMMY PAGE** turn up at **PLANT**'s Marquee show and then fail to make it inside the club? Was he refused a ticket? Was he upset by the fact that **PLANT** had sampled certain **ZEP** sounds for his new album? Or did he merely mistake his ol' pal for **DAVID COVERDALE**? Till next time...

● **Scorpions**

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JUST THE FACTS

Cont. from Page 3

As **OZZY OSBOURNE** tells it, writing songs for his forthcoming album has been "a blend of transcendendance and torture." Let the Oz fully describe his unique creative process: "The writing period is the hardest part of being Ozzy Osbourne. I wake up in the middle of the night and I drive myself temporarily insane. I walk around talking to myself. I fight Ozzy, and then he hits me. That's when I know I've written a good song."

ex-LED ZEP'r JIMMY PAGE: Back on the rock circuit again!

OZZY OSBOURNE: Trading torture for a new song.

JUDAS PRIEST is finishing up their new vinyl in Denmark, and fans can expect to hear their *Ram It Out* album at the beginning of May. According to their management, Priest went back to the raw sound they had on their first few albums.

KING KOBRA released a three-song EP on February 4, and a full album will be out at the end of this month. **CARMINE APPICE** made his acting debut in the movie *Black Rose*, which was shot on location in Canada. "Take It Off," one of the songs featured on the EP, will also appear on the *Black Rose* soundtrack.

CHER was all smiles when JON BON JOVI worked on her current LP and she was all smiles when she presented Jon & his band with the Favorite Pop/Rock Group trophy at the *American Music Awards*.

photo by Ron Wolfson

JIMMY PAGE, the legendary **ZEPPELIN** guitarist, signed a one-million-dollar record deal with Geffen Records. His first album can be expected this spring as well as a mid-summer U.S. tour by the newly-formed Jimmy Page Band, which will feature Page and drummer **JASON BONHAM** (son of the late Zeppelin drummer **JOHN BONHAM**). The record is nearly finished, with **JOHN MILES** on vocals, though ex-Zeppelin partner **ROBERT PLANT** sings on one song.

LA GUNS' first (and self-titled) album has made a big entrance onto *Billboard*'s charts. The band currently is doing a club-date tour around America before teaming up with **TED NUGENT** on his upcoming tour.

JON BON JOVI has trouble staying at home. He's still on tour with **AEROSMITH** so he can sing two encore songs with **MR. TYLER**!

photo by Neil Zlozower

L.A. GUNS: Soon to be opening for Ted Nugent.